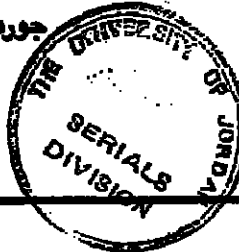


## Arms control talks open in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — Israel and Palestinian representatives joined by officials from Arab countries and other states met here Wednesday for talks on Middle East security and disarmament issues, a Russian foreign ministry official said. The talks, part of the multilateral negotiations within the Middle East peace process, were taking place at an undisclosed location. Officials from Russia and the United States, the co-sponsors of the peace process, declined any comment on the meeting. Other states attending the talks, scheduled to last two days, included Canada and China, embassy officials said. The Palestinian delegation was headed by Dawood Amin Barakat, the senior Palestinian representative in Moscow. Palestinian officials said, Georgi Zuyev, an official in the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East department, said Tuesday that the Israeli-Palestinian accord on limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories had "stimulated" the overall peace process. "This round of talks was meticulously prepared," Mr. Zuyev added, referring to the negotiations in Moscow. The group meeting here was one of five working groups created after the current peace process was opened in October 1991. The other groups are negotiating issues on water rights, the economy, refugees and the environment.

# Jordan Times

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## Jordan Times reporters on the trail of candidates and their campaigns in various constituencies in the Kingdom Zarqa, proletariat of Jordan, will vote in those who invested time and money in its development Islamists expected to win their bid; toss up for many others

By Ayman Al Safadi in Zarqa

WHEN THE people of Zarqa, whom one observer calls the proletariat of Jordan, go to the polls on Nov. 8, the majority will vote for those who have traditionally helped them meet their needs when others, including the government, showed neglect. They will support the choice of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement: the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

The IAF, the political arm of the Brotherhood, is contesting three of the four parliamentary Muslim seats allocated for Zarqa and most observers say it has an excellent chance of winning its bid. The two other seats in Zarqa will be filled by a Christian and a member of the Circassian and Chechen communities.

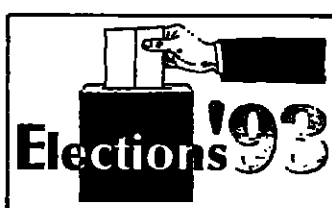
With a population of about 500,000 people, Zarqa, 25 kilometres north-east of Amman, grew from a small town built around the railroad and British military posts early this century into Jordan's

second largest city. Its population has its roots in all parts of Jordan and the West Bank, making the city a microcosm of the country.

But in a country which for long formulated its policies with an eye on tribal considerations, the diverse demographic composition of the city did it more harm than good. Zarqa did not have the clout that other smaller but tribally based towns have and thus did not receive the economic and political attention that its residents believe it deserves.

The Muslim Brotherhood has filled the gap with an extensive network of social and charitable organisations that offered health, educational and cultural services as well as financial support for the city's poorer residents. In return, the movement won their loyalty.

"The Muslim Brotherhood built a parallel government in Zarqa," said prominent lawyer and long resident of Zarqa Taher Hikmat. "It is



the only group that reached the hearts of the city's residents and maintained constant communication with them," he said.

The Brotherhood tapped this support in 1989 when Zarqa sent two of its members, Theeb Anis and Mohammed Al Haj, to Parliament. The two other Muslim seats went to Ziad Abu Mahfouz, an independent Islamist who was supported by the Brotherhood and Palestinian refugees, and Salameh Al Gweiri, a centrist from the large Bani Hassan tribe. The Circassian and Chechen seat was won by Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo, an independent Islamist; Bassam Haddadin, a leftist, won the Christian seat with the support of the Palestinian

vote. The Islamist, tribal and Palestinian vote will again determine the winners in the electoral race in Zarqa where 53 candidates are vying for the support of the city's 192,932 registered voters.

Even though five independent Islamist candidates are contesting the elections in Zarqa governorate, which includes the town of Russeifeh and has a population of about 750,000, most observers expect the Islamist vote to favour the three IAF candidates: former deputy Anis, who won 25,517 voters or 43.88 per cent of the vote in the 1989 elections; former deputy Haj, who then won 18,905 votes or 32.51 per cent of the vote; and Bassam Al Omush, a former professor of Sharia at the University of Jordan, who is running for the first time.

Observers say the IAF is assured of success in Zarqa not only because of the traditional support it has in the city but also because of its highly organised campaign.

The Front has divided the constituency into three districts to ensure the necessary distribution of votes among its candidates.

Another factor that will play into the hands of the IAF candidates is the Front's control of the municipal council. The Brotherhood won the mayorship of the city in 1990 on the "Islam is the solution" platform, and the IAF has been citing the achievements of the council to boost the Islamist image.

Independent Islamist Ziad Abu Mahfouz, who won 6,513 votes in 1989, will be a strong contender because he will again expect to be supported by the vote of the large community of refugees from his home town of Beir Al Sabe, according to Muneeb Al Werr, a former University of Jordan professor from Zarqa who lost his bid for election in 1989.

Dr. Werr and other observers believe, however, that Mr. Abu Mahfouz's position

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday hold talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Germany praises Jordan's stand and pledges support

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel pledged Wednesday that his country's political and economic support for the Middle East peace process would be applied in a manner that benefits all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Kinkel, addressing a press conference after talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other senior officials, noted that 28.6 per cent of the nearly \$600 million in European Community (EC) assistance to developing the Palestinian economy in the occupied West

Bank and Gaza Strip were coming from Germany. In general, he said, Germany will ensure that "our aid is in such a way that benefits everybody."

The German minister, who voiced high appreciation for Jordan's commitment to the two-year-old peace process and the Kingdom's stand vis-a-vis various international issues, said his country was aware of the economic problems facing Jordan.

"We have no intention whatsoever of forgetting Jordan" in the process of supporting the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on interim Palestinian autonomy in the occupied ter-

ritories, he said. The minister noted that Germany had extended more than DM 1 billion (about JD 450 million) in assistance to Jordan over the years and that it had signed a new agreement under which it would offer DM 43.8 million (JD 18 million) in aid to the Kingdom in 1994.

In addition, he said, Bonn was also poised to convert DM 9.5 million (JD 4 million) in loans to Jordan into grants. An agreement in principle was reached on this issue during the visit last month of a senior delegation from the German ministry of economic cooperation.

(Continued on page 4)

## The contest in Irbid: Lucky those candidates who can blend party support and tribal backing

By Suheir Obeidat in Irbid

WITH THE support of his tribe and backing of a strong party, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate, Hassan Al Tal, stands a good chance of securing one of Irbid's eight Muslim and one Christian seats.

Like in many other constituencies in the Kingdom, the ideal candidate in Irbid (which comprises the city and immediate villages surrounding it like Sareeh, Barhah, Howwarah, Husn and Hakama) is the one who can combine the support of both the politically committed voter

and members of his tribe. Sixty candidates, including five former ministers and deputies and first time candidates, combine family links, political affiliation with services rendered to the community to lure voters to their camp.

Mr. Tal, Kayed Omari, Abdul Rahim 'Ekour and Ahmad Kofahi, the four official IAF candidates, all enjoy the backing of their large tribes and expect that at least three of them will reach the domed parliament, (the weakest IAF candidate

appears to be Mr. Omari). In the 1989 elections, the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, which dominates the IAF, won four mandates in Irbid and 23 all over the country. The highest number of votes in the Kingdom (32,651) went to Mr. Kofahi, then a member of the movement before its registration as a political party, the IAF, in 1993.

Government officials and at least one survey expect the Islamists to do worse this time around, mainly because of the introduction of a one-person, one-vote formula into the Election Law.

Another survey, however, predicted that the front will secure 25 seats in the Nov. 8 polls.

The change in the law deprived the IAF, the most organised of 20 parties contesting the polls, of forming alliances with other candidates and groups. But Irbid appears to still support the Islamists, mainly because they remained in touch with their constituents and their needs throughout the four-year term of the 11th Parliament.

Mr. Tal, a founding member of the IAF and a long-time journalist, refutes arguments that the Islamists

would not fare well as they did in the 1989 elections.

"It is not true that voters are disillusioned with Islamist candidates," said Mr. Tal, who is also on the board of the Al-Dustour Arabic daily. "We are hopeful that we will do well in the elections despite many limiting factors, mainly the change in the Election Law."

At a restaurant frequented by Yarmouk University students, the four IAF candidates on Monday organised a rally where they responded to questions posed by an audi-

(Continued on page 5)

## Balqa, no stranger to politicised campaigns, to grapple with influence of refugee vote, Islamists and tribes

By Nermeen Murad in Salt

THE CAPITAL city of Balqa Governorate, which has historically been an influential centre of Jordanian politics, is no longer guarded by an abstract landscape of hills and evasive politicians. The hills have been invaded by the loud and disturbing colours of otherwise empty banners. Its usually active politicians are contributing to an eerie tension by their low-key involvement and side-stepping of pleas for support from the 47 candidates for the district's eight parliamentary seats.

But what brings this district

to the fore more than anything else is that among its 127,520 registered voters, the three most commanding political forces in the Kingdom, are pitted against each other in a struggle for survival: Tribal, Islamist and the largest Palestinian refugee camp in the Kingdom. And to the citizens of Balqa, the allotted seats (six Muslim and two Christian) are just not enough to go around.

Apart from the obvious consequences of introducing the one-person, one-vote electoral system in August, or more accurately because

of that change, several factors that usually figured into the Balqa election mathematics are no longer the same.

The Balqa's refugee camp, home to about 22,800 voters, has traditionally been the picking ground for tribal candidates from the city of Salt, as well as for the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

This time around, however, the camp has three candidates of its own, two of whom stand a good chance of being elected.

They are Ibrahim Shihdeh Al Haj Yousef (mainstream PLO supporter) and Mohammad Oweidah (Islamic Action Front IAF candidate).

Most analysts interviewed by the Jordan Times believe the chances of the two to be elected are all the stronger because the camp has been able to split its votes almost down the middle between them.

If true, this leaves very little ground for manoeuvre by other candidates in the district except for a small percentage of camp residents who traditionally allied themselves with one tribe or another or are committed supporters of a political party and that has fielded a candidate in the race.

What was traditionally another vote bank for candi-

dates is the area of Allan in which the Zoubi clan constitutes a majority.

This area, which is home to about 4,000 voters, however, is being contested by Anwar Al Zoubi and a host of other candidates who have traced their history to that area, including former Deputy Awni Bashir. Neither is expected to draw enough other votes from the outlying areas in the district to secure a winning position.

Even though some other candidates may expect support from that area, observers believe it cannot serve as

(Continued on page 4)

## PLO pledges security in Gaza, Egypt mediates

CAIRO (Agencies) — Chief

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said Wednesday that a Palestinian police force, perhaps backed by U.N. or multinational troops, could provide security for everyone in the Gaza Strip.

His remarks, the first hint of involving international forces in Gaza, came a day after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) walked out of peace talks in anger over Israel's plans to use its own forces to guard Jewish settlers

in the coastal strip.

Egypt moved quickly to heal the rift in the talks, aimed at implementing the PLO-Israel accord to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa met Wednesday with Dr. Shaath and was to travel to Israel on Thursday for talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Dr. Shaath said after the session that restarting the talks at the Egyptian resort of Taba

would depend on Mr. Musa's meetings in Israel. Earlier, he suggested that a summit between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mr. Rabin might be needed to get the talks back on track.

Mr. Arafat on Wednesday received a telegram from U.S. President Bill Clinton on the self-rule negotiations with Israel, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

In his first contact with the

(Continued on page 4)

## Palestinians indifferent to Likud victory in Jerusalem elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, expressed indifference Wednesday towards the election of right-wing Likud Party candidate Ehud Olmert as the city's new mayor.

"These elections do not concern us," said Ziyad Genem, a hotel owner. "Voting would mean recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) called a boycott of the ballot which brought an end to 45 years of Labour Party rule. Only about

6,500 of the 95,000 Palestinians living in the eastern sector turned out to vote, despite an appeal from veteran Teddy Kollek for Arabs to vote and block a right-wing victory.

Mr. Kollek supported the Sept. 13 autonomy deal for the Gaza Strip and Jericho but the new mayor, Ehud Olmert, strongly opposes it and backs Jewish settlers.

"Both Labour and Likud have a common policy regarding Jerusalem. They deny it is occupied land and proclaim it as a united capital," said Saad Erakat, deputy head of the

Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks.

"We have made an agreement with Israel's government and not its town halls," Dr. Erakat added.

Ziyad Abu Ziyad, another Palestinian peace negotiator, said: "It's an internal Israeli affair, but the problem of Jerusalem is political and not municipal."

Expressing a view common among East Jerusalem's Palestinians, Mr. Genem said the election results "prove that

(Continued on page 4)

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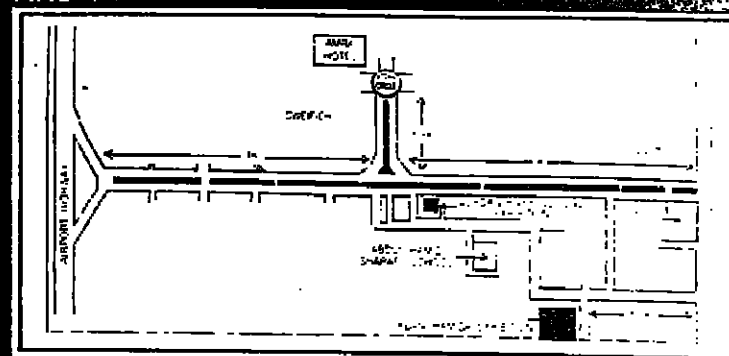
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# West presses Russia on anti-Libya sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major in separate letters pressured Russian President Boris Yeltsin to support tighter sanctions against Libya because of the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, diplomats said Tuesday.

The United States, Britain and France expected to bring the sanctions measures to a vote in the Security Council within a week, despite Moscow's threats to veto the draft because of Libya's 4 billion debt to Russia.

Mr. Clinton sent his letter to Mr. Yeltsin Monday and Mr. Major followed Tuesday, both apparently explaining the consequences of a veto, envoys said.

And French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur brought up the controversy during his current visit to Moscow, they added.

"If we don't move soon we will lose all credibility," said one diplomat involved in the negotiations. "And if Russia vetoes, the U.S. Congress will veto on any future aid."

Whether the allies will change any part of their draft resolution is not certain. But so far they have rejected writing into the text suggestions that Libya's assets would be seized to pay Russia the \$4 billion Tripoli owes.

The draft resolution bars some oil-related equipment and freezes some assets overseas because of Libya's failure to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain

two men accused of bombing a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Libya also must cooperate with a French inquiry into the bombing of a French plane over Niger in September 1989 which killed 171 people.

Russia, which had sold arms and contracted construction projects in Libya, has argued that the Europeans took care not to ban Tripoli's high-grade crude to nations such as Germany and Italy but did not consider Libya's debt to Moscow.

The council, in an April 1992 resolution, imposed an arms, air and diplomatic embargo on Libya. The new sanctions bar oil refinery equipment, but exclude oil drilling equipment from the ban as well as revenues earned from oil sales after the resolution is adopted.

A Russian veto would kill the measure. But even if Russia abstains, the draft might just scrape through with the minimum nine votes required in the 15-member council.

While a close vote would still be legally binding on all U.N. members, it would reveal a lack of political support on the question of extraditing citizens of a member state.

Libya has said the accused, Abdul Baset Ali Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, could stand trial in Scotland if they agreed, but a team of lawyers advised against it.

The United States Tuesday rejected U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's suggestion that the international effort to force Libya to give up

the two suspects has failed.

"We share the secretary-general's frustration with Libya's continued refusal to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions but do not believe the policy of using sanctions as one anti-terrorism tool has failed," State Department spokesman David Johnson said.

"I would note that while Libya is not in full compliance with any aspect of U.N. resolutions, the sanctions have had an important deterrent effect as regards Libyan support for terrorism and connections with terrorist groups," he told reporters.

He was responding to an interview Dr. Ghali gave Friday to the Washington Post.

The Post quoted the secretary-general as saying that he had spent endless hours discussing extradition with the Libyans in connection with the 1988 bombing and "this is a case where there is a total failure."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said he will not force the two men to leave Libya for trial, but would not object if they left voluntarily.

Mr. Johnson said the United States was determined, in consultation with the United Nations, to "continue our efforts until Libya complies fully" and turns the men over for prosecution.

He refused to say anything about the status of negotiations with Russia on the matter, or when the new sanctions might be put to a vote in the Security Council.



TORN PLANS: A Palestinian woman walks past ripped posters of the former Jerusalem mayor, Teddy Kolek, in Arab East Jerusalem Wednesday, a day after the elections. Kolek, mayor for the last 28 years, lost to Likud candidate Ehud Olmert (AFP photo)

# Egypt seeks to turn public against Muslim militants

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government, insisting that the hotel slaying of three Westerners last week was the work of a madman acting alone, has begun a hears and minds campaign to turn ordinary Egyptians against Muslim militants.

Egyptian Information Minister Saïf Sherif, speaking on Tuesday, rejected suggestions that there was any link between the Oct. 26 killing and a bloody campaign by Muslim militants to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

Dismissing militant violence as the "price of democracy," he said the government had set up 55 information centres in Egypt to "explain the dangers of militants' thinking and violence."

"Efforts to abort fundamentalist views yielded fruits," he told Reuters in an interview.

He said one example of this was that Egyptian citizens have helped the police arrest militants, sometimes getting killed in the process.

"Our information plans and campaigns take stands opposite to those of militants. We are telling the citizen to move forward and act his age and become an international citizen," he added.

Mr. Sherif spoke one week after Saber Abu Al Ala, 28, opened fire on foreigners dining at Cairo's Semeramis Hotel, killing two Americans and a French expert. Prosecutors are still investigating Mr. Abu Al Ala, who has not been formally indicted.

The government has consistently said Mr. Abu Al Ala was a madman acting on his own and Mr. Sherif lashed out at Western media, which he said falsely sought to paint him as a militant sympathiser.

"It has been formally announced the man was deranged but the Western media is trying to establish links between him and the militants," Mr. Sherif said.

"I hate to see the international media fabricating news. It seems some reporters are insisting on establishing a link between the militants and the insane killer," Mr. Sherif added.

At least 210 people have been killed and more than 500 have been wounded in battles between militants and the police over the past 18 months.

The government has blamed the attacks on Muslim militants seeking to overthrow Mr. Mubarak's government and establish a strict Islamic state.

The attacks have often targeted foreign tourists, policemen and Christians.

Mr. Sherif said Egypt's struggle with militants, 38 of whom have been sentenced to death by military courts in the last year, was a result of its democracy and openness.

"Violence by militants was the price of democracy and our openness onto the outside world after decades of isolation," he said. "But despite the risk Egypt will not go back on democracy and will keep channels open with the outside world."

"We don't want the Egyptian to live as a villager the rest of his life. We want him to live in his age," he said.

Mr. Mubarak has ruled out any concession to Islamic militants.

In a recent interview with French daily Liberation, Mr. Mubarak said his government had tried talks with militants in an attempt to end the violence but these went nowhere.

"Now that they've taken up arms, we cannot have any dialogue with them... we will never legalise their parties. I will make no concessions to the Islamists, we will fight with arms those who take up arms against us," Mr. Mubarak said.

# Iraqis turn back to dates to alleviate U.N. sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqis are turning back to dates, a traditional part of their diet, to alleviate the food shortages brought about by three years of U.N. sanctions.

Production is up and Iraqis are eating most of the dates instead of selling them abroad.

"We now consume almost all that we produce. The dates are helping a great deal in fighting the effects of sanctions," said Mohammad Salim of the Chamber of Commerce.

Last year Iraq harvested about 450,000 tonnes and the figure this year is expected to jump to 500,000. Production averaged 350,000 tonnes a year between 1983 and 1988, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Until 1990, when the United Nations imposed the trade embargo in response to Iraq invading Kuwait, exports had been rising sharply, from about 150,000 tonnes in 1986/87 to 163,000 tonnes in 1988/89 and 373,000 in the next year.

Even if date exports were possible, Iraq might choose to keep them to compensate for the decline in food imports. Iraq has turned down U.N. terms for oil exports so it does not have the foreign exchange to import all the food that it needs.

Mr. Salim said that from local production the average Iraqi received at least 22 kilograms of dates a year.

That would give each Iraqi about 120 calories and one gram of protein a day — a significant supplement to the diet.

Prices are almost within reach of most families. A kilogramme of dates now costs about 10 dinars.

Iraqi prices are difficult to compare because the dinar can be converted at the official rate — one dinar to \$3.20 — or at the black-market rate — about 100-dinars to the dollar.

The government has occasionally added dates to the subsidised rations it has been providing to protect Iraqis from high prices on the open market.

The rations, which include rice, flour, sugar and cooking oil, provide about 40 per cent of the food Iraqis need. They have to buy the rest as best they can.

The government, anxious to make the most of the country's own agricultural resources, has been preaching the nutritive values of dates through the state-run media. In Baghdad it is compulsory to have at least one date palm in your garden.

But at a four-day seminar in dates in Baghdad this month, experts said the number of trees in Iraq had been decreasing at an alarming rate because of war, disease and neglect.

Falah Saïd Jaber of the Arab Federation of Food Industries said Iraq now had only 13 million fruit trees left.

The country once had 32 million, 40 per cent of all the 80 million date palms in the world.

But the area around the southern city of Basra, once a sea of date palms as far as the eye could see, was devastated in the war with Iran between 1980 and 1988 and to a lesser extent in the Gulf war over Kuwait in 1991.

Up to one million men and hundreds of tanks took part in battles near Basra between the Iraqis and the Iranians and some of the battles took place

in or near the date palm plantations.

Many trees further from the front were blown up by shells.

Mr. Saleh said Basra had more than 10 million trees two decades ago but other regions had now overtaken it in date production.

Kurds' power blackouts

Iraq has blamed U.N. sanctions and Kurdish saboteurs for the power blackout in areas of northern Iraq since August.

An Industry Ministry statement said electrical lines around Dohuk could not be repaired due to a shortage of spare parts, according to a Tuesday night Iraqi radio broadcast.

"Necessary spares are unavailable as a result of the unfair blockade and the fact that the U.N. Security Council sanctions committee has not agreed to allow Iraq to import material, equipment, and machinery needed for the electricity network," the statement said.

In a clear reference to Kurdish fighters, the statement added that "deceived cliques in the northern parts of the country had sabotaged and stolen lines carrying electrical power...including towers and cables."

Earlier reports had accused the government of deliberately shutting off power stations in its latest act of repression against the three million ethnic Kurds.

The Iraqi radio report said that if the media circulating the reports were concerned about the welfare of the Kurds, they should support Iraq's call for an end to the U.N. embargo.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**PLO official arrested as Mossad spy**

TUNIS (AFP) — A top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security official has been arrested in Tunis on charges of spying for Israel and bugging the organisation's headquarters, a Palestinian official disclosed here Wednesday. He may also have been plotting to kill PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the official said. Adnan Hassan Yassin, 44, aide to PLO security chief Hakam Balawi, was found to have placed listening devices in the offices of Mr. Balawi and another top PLO official, Mahmoud Abbas. Mr. Yassin's son, 24-year-old Hani, was also arrested. Mr. Yassin was close to Mr. Arafat and often had direct access to the PLO chief, the official said. The Tunisian security services, tipped off by their French counterparts, arrested the two at the beginning of last week, after monitoring clandestine broadcasts they made to the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, the official said. Hani Yassin was arrested when the security services seized a car he was driving, which was "cramped with electronic spying equipment." The car had come from Germany, via France. The car was "probably" going to be used in a car-bomb attack against Mr. Arafat, the official added. The suspects were arrested and questioned by the Tunisian police before being handed over to the Palestinian security services, the official said. Mr. Yassin has been stationed in Tunis since 1970 and was frequently consulted by Mr. Arafat on security matters, he added. A Palestinian official in Amman said Wednesday that Mr. Yassin was "monitoring all the movements of PLO leaders, even their private activities" for Mossad. Mossad is believed to have recruited Mr. Yassin in 1990 in a European capital, he added.

# Factional fighting returns to Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Troops loyal to the president exchanged tank and rocket fire with the prime minister's militia Wednesday in the third straight day of combat between the two archenemies. The fighting between President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's faction moved to Kabul after two days of warfare around Tagab, 60 kilometres to the northeast. Mr. Rabbani's supporters hold much of the tattered capital, but Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction controls the outskirts, and they began shelling Kabul's eastern neighbourhood of Qabul-bay on Tuesday night, according to residents. Mr. Rabbani's forces, commanded by Ahmad Shah Masood, sent tanks into the area Wednesday morning and shelled Hezb-e-Islami positions for two hours, witnesses added. No reliable casualty figures were available. However, Allahuddin, a commander loyal to Mr. Rabbani, said about 15 people were wounded near his front-line position. "Hezb-e-Islami started firing mortars into this area last night. We didn't respond till this morning," he said.

# Thailand wants out of U.S.-Libyan row

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand wants to avoid involvement in a confrontation between the United States and Libya but is determined to abide by a U.N. convention banning chemical weapons, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri was quoted Wednesday as saying. He was reacting to reports that Libya had ordered the firing and repatriation of 5,500 Thai workers there in retaliation for moves in Bangkok to end Thai participation in producing illegal chemical weapons in the country. Thailand has been under pressure from the United States in recent months to crack down on local job agencies sending Thai workers to Libya allegedly to help build chemical weapons plants. Mr. Prasong told local reporters, "Thailand, as a signatory country of the anti-chemical weapons convention, will abide by any requirement stated in it." He pointed out that he had instructed Thailand's ambassador to Greece, who is also accredited to Libya, to tell Tripoli that Thailand was merely honouring the convention and was not following directives from the United States.

# German talks with GCC may lead to training

ABU DHABI (R) — Germany's first talks on defence cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) may lead to its training Gulf forces, a German official said on Tuesday. "This has been the first (defence) discussion...and this idea could lead mainly to support in training," Jorg Schonbohm, under-secretary of state at the German Defence Ministry, told Reuters in an interview. Mr. Schonbohm, who this week met defence ministers from Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and was due to visit Kuwait, ruled out the possibility of joint exercises or of a German naval presence in the area. He said Iran's military machine was the biggest worry of Gulf military officials.

# Judge slams British ministry over Iraq deals

LONDON (R) — A judge investigating Britain's arms-for-Iraq scandal on Tuesday accused the Ministry of Defence of allowing the export of machine tools to Iraq when they were "obviously" going to be used to make weapons. Lord Justice Sir Richard Scott, who heads the inquiry into whether the government knowingly broke its own rules and sold arms to Baghdad before the 1991 Gulf war, also sharply rebuked government officials for withholding crucial documents. A senior Defence Ministry official, Alan Barrett, told the inquiry that a major consignment of British equipment worth £40 million (\$59 million) had been approved in 1987 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war. Mr. Barrett, who was then the senior official responsible for maintaining government guidelines restricting exports to Iraq, said there had been no direct evidence that the equipment would be used to manufacture munitions. But Judge Scott, shot back: "What were these machine tools going to be used for at a time of war? They were not going to be used to make washing machines. They were obviously going to be used to make armaments given the state of the war." Prime Minister John Major ordered the inquiry a year ago after three managers of the British machine tools firm Matrix Churchill were acquitted of illegally exporting to Iraq.

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**PROGRAMME TWO**

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20:00	News
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22:00	News
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22:30	News

**PRAYER TIMES**

06:31	Fajr
06:50	Sunrise
11:19	Dhuhr
14:22	Asr
17:48	Maghrib
18:07	Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. George's Church Tel. 628541  
St. Nicholas Church Tel. 628542  
St. Peter's Church Tel. 628543  
St. Paul's Church Tel. 628544  
St. John's Church Tel. 628545  
St. Mary's Church Tel. 628546  
St. Michael's Church Tel. 628547  
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St. John the Sinner Church Tel. 628568  
St. John the Thief Church Tel. 628569  
St. John the Tax Collector Church Tel. 628570  
St. John the Publican Church Tel. 628571  
St. John the Levite Church Tel. 628572  
St. John the Samaritan Church Tel. 628573  
St. John the Canaanite Church Tel. 628574  
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St. John the Capernaum Church Tel. 628579  
St. John the Tiberias Church Tel. 628580  
St. John the Sea of Galilee Church Tel. 628581  
St. John the Jordan River Church Tel. 628582  
St. John the Dead Sea Church Tel. 628583  
St. John the Salt Sea Church Tel. 628584  
St. John the Bitter Sea Church Tel. 628585  
St. John the Red Sea Church Tel. 628586  
St. John the Mediterranean Sea Church Tel. 628587  
St. John the Black Sea Church Tel. 628588  
St. John the Caspian Sea Church Tel. 628589  
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St. John the Pacific Ocean Church Tel. 629000

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

**USEFUL TELEPHONE**

**EMERGENCIES**

**HOSPITALS**

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**ARRIVALS**

**ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

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**DEPARTURES**

**ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

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**MARKET PRICES**

Apple	700/450
Banana	600
Beans (Makassar)	500/520
Beans (Makassar)	500/520
Cabbage	150/180
Carrot	320/330
Cauliflower	240/260
Celery	240/260
Cucumbers (large)	150/180
Cucumbers (small)	300/320
Eggplant	200/220
Garlic	950/1000
Grape	550/600
Grape Fruit	180/190
Guava	400/420
Lebanese (green)	200/220
Marrow (large)	150/180
Marrow (small)	300/320
Onion (dry)	200/220
Onion (green)	300/320
Pepper (hot)	180/200
Pepper (sweet)	220/240
Pomegranate	300/320
Potato	300/320
Tomato	200/220
Spinach	320/330

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

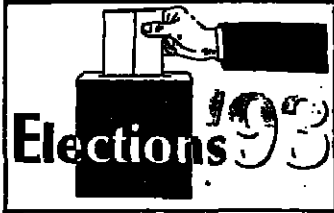
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## Notices, regulations and suggestions for election day



AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed Monday Nov. 8, election day, according to a statement by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday.

The statement said the day off will enable all government employees to exercise their right to vote.

### Ban on carrying firearms

The Ministry of Interior is expected to announce a total ban on carrying firearms on election day, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). In the 1989 elections, there were a few cases of shootings reported after the results of the elections were announced but no serious casualties were reported.

The Ministry of Interior early this year issued a set of new regulations regarding firearms possession. The regulations called on all Jordanians possessing firearms to obtain a license during January.

A PSD official said the department will prosecute any person found in possession of a firearm (licensed or unlicensed) on election day.

### Vehicle licensing office to close

The PSD also announced that the Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Department (DVLD) will be closed from Saturday Nov. 6 through Tuesday Nov. 9.

The statement said that during these four days PSD officers working for the DVLD will be deployed to take up security duties during the elections.

Motorists who have appointments for driving tests during these days should call at the offices after Tuesday to set a new date for their exam.

The DVLD will resume regular office hours on Wednesday Nov. 10.

### Duplicate voting is illegal

The Interior Ministry Wednesday warned holders of more than one voting card against attempting to cast more than one ballot in violation of the Election Law and said all measures are being taken to prevent such attempts.

The ministry has discovered duplicate names in the voting lists and has cancelled the repeated names, but found that some citizens still hold more

than one card, said Interior Minister Salameh Hamad.

In cooperation with the voting committees the ministry will prevent people from using more than one card as updated voter lists were being distributed to all centres, said the minister.

The ministry has approved the list registered in the 1989 elections and discarded new registrations thus making it impossible for those holding two voting cards to vote more than once, added Mr. Hamad.

Stressing that an attempt to vote more than once is an act punishable by law, the minister said that those caught voting more than once will be imprisoned for at least three months and fined up to JD 500.

### Some parties make suggestions

Meanwhile, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and four other political parties Wednesday sent a message to Interior Minister Salameh Hamad suggesting that each voter be stamped on the finger to distinguish those who have cast their ballot from those who have not, to prevent any repeat voting.

The message also suggested that the names of those citizens

who were cancelled from the voter lists by the Ministry of Interior for any reason be posted at each polling station.

It urged the ministry to take measures to ensure that persons who were registered for the 1989 elections but failed to find their voter cards at the distribution centres in 1993 receive new cards so that they are able to vote on Monday.

Also Wednesday the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement sent another message to the interior minister suggesting that voting cards be torn immediately after the voters have cast their ballots. It said that such a measure would help authorities control the voting process.

### 2 more candidates withdraw

Two candidates running in the general elections Wednesday announced their withdrawal from the race, according to Amman Governor Talaat Nawaiseh.

The governor said that Hassan Al Dib of the Third District and Mohammad Abdul Hadi Al Mahameh of the Fourth District announced their withdrawal, but gave no reasons.

## Jordan expected to get \$35m from EC to help economic programme

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is expected to receive \$35 million in European Community (EC) aid to help its balance of payments, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources said a formal decision on the release of the funds was expected soon at the EC headquarters in Brussels.

The money will come from a \$300 million package the EC allotted for Mediterranean countries to implement economic recovery programmes, they said.

Jordan, straining under a \$8.4 billion foreign debt, launched an economic restructuring programme agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1989. Subsequently, it reduced the debt to \$6.88 billion after repaying some, buying back others and cancelling non-disbursed credits included in the overall figure.

Jordan has already received nearly \$50 million from the EC assistance package, and the funds would be mostly spent on local development, officials said. Specified use of the funds is part of the grant agreement, they noted.

"The expected funds will be over and above the regular European Commission assistance to Jordan under the consecutive protocols it has signed with the Kingdom," said one source.

The EC Commission, the executive arm of the community, maintains a strong presence in Amman to follow up on the implementation of the protocols and other related agreements.

European diplomats say that in view of the need to improve the quality of life for the people of the region as part of efforts to ensure the success of the Arab-Israeli process, their governments are ready to help Jordan.

"We are ready to discuss concrete projects and invest-

ments," said a senior European diplomat, adding that by and large this reflected the sentiments of those EC countries which are in a position to extend assistance.

Jordan is pushing for debt relief from some of the EC governments grouped in the Paris Club of official creditors.

Switzerland, a non-EC country, became the first European country and member of the Paris Club to extend debt relief to Jordan by converting about \$23 million in loans to outright grants. The only stipulation in the arrangement was that 27 per cent of the amount will be spent on certain specific sectors of the economy.

Germany has offered a similar arrangement for parts of its loans to Jordan. During a visit to the Kingdom last month, a senior German official signed a new JD 18 million aid agreement for 1994 and offered the conversion of nearly JD 4 million in loans to grants.

Again, half of the amount will have to be spent on specific sectors stipulated in a for-

mal agreement, which is expected to be signed soon.

Jordan is seeking similar gestures from its other European countries, but some of the concerned governments are believed to be adopting a position that outright debt relief could not be offered to Jordan under the present global economic conditions and debt situation since other Third World creditors would seek similar gestures citing Jordan as a precedent.

The Jordanian position is that it should be seen as a special case because its foreign debts were not incurred in a typical situation of a Third World country overborrowing. The Kingdom argues that much of its present debt burden was created as a result of events beyond its control, such as the waves of refugees it has accepted over the years and the Gulf crisis which not only dealt a severe blow to its economy, but also prompted a fresh wave of people into its territory.

## Majali urges official media to present 'correct and objective information'

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday urged official media organisations to "make use of (Jordan's) democratic process — to provide every citizen with the correct and objective information — and to express people's concerns in a manner that helps officials to obtain a true picture" of the situation.

Dr. Majali emphasised the necessity of developing "government media" to become "media for the homeland and its internal and external interests."

Speaking at a meeting at the Ministry of Information attended by Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar and ministry department chiefs, Dr. Majali said that the ministry and its departments ought to free themselves from the traditional method of presenting dry reports and news materials into analysing and commenting on news in a manner that would reflect both the positive and negative aspects of events.

Sound and objective information should be accessible to all citizens, and ministry officials are duty bound to



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar and senior representatives of the day media.

meet this requirement, Dr. Majali added.

Thanking the ministry officials for their continued and dedicated efforts, the prime minister reiterated the govern-

ment's policy of enhancing the concept of decentralisation and partnership in the decision making process.

The minister of information reviewed preparations on the

part of his ministry and its various departments to cover the elections. He referred to the ongoing policy of urging citizens to take part in the Nov. 8 polls as a national duty.

## Visiting senior Russian official says Moscow fully backs peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting senior Russian official said here Wednesday that his country fully backs efforts for peace and continues to work towards establishing security and stability in the Middle East region.

Mr. K. Gregory said in a statement that during his visit to Jordan he planned to meet with media officials as well as observe preparations for covering the parliamentary elections. He said that the Jordanian experiment in this arena may benefit the Russian elections next month.

Mr. Gregory was speaking at a meeting with Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar with whom he reviewed the election process and discussed Jordan's position with regard to Middle East peace.

Mr. Gregory, who is head of the Information and Press Section at the Russian Foreign Ministry, reviewed with Dr. Abu Nowar bilateral relations, especially in media fields, and the prospect of signing an information agreement to boost the exchange of cooperation in information-related affairs. He said that Russian Jewish



Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar Wednesday meets with K. Gregory, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Section and other Russian officials (Petra photo)

emigration to occupied Palestine was continuing, but fewer people were leaving.

He attributed the decline to the economic and social conditions in Israel, adding that a

reverse migration from Israel to Russia was now taking place.

## 47 hepatitis cases reported in Jerash

JERASH (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Wednesday said that 47 cases of hepatitis have appeared lately in the town of Sakib in the Jerash district, but the Health Ministry was taking measures to deal with the situation.

Blaming the disease on polluted water, the minister said that Sakib citizens had drawn water from springs proved to be unpotable.

These springs have not been in use for a very long time, but some families drank from the water and some persons became infected, said the minister, adding that some of the cases were children.

But Dr. Malhas said the virus was not serious and local hospitals were dealing with all the cases, and medical teams were at work to contain the situation.

In the meantime, added Dr. Malhas, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to carry out a sewerage project in Sakib to help solve the health problem and promised a general health education programme for the town.

Earlier the health minister opened the 32-bed paediatric ward of Jerash Government Hospital and said the Health Ministry was striving to provide comprehensive services to all regions.

Khaled Khreisha, district governor of Jerash, reviewed in speech the general health situation in the Jerash district and thanked the Ministry of Health for its efforts.

According to Farouk Humud, director of the hospitals, plans are underway to open a general surgery department with 25 beds.

## ADC to press U.S. for funds to support rebuilding Palestine

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Americans plan to press the U.S. government to contribute the "same amount of financial support the U.S. has been giving to Israel for the past 40 years" for the "rebuilding of Palestine" and the "economic revival of Jordan," the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) said in a press release.

The ADC said that the committee's founder, former U.S. senator James Abourezk and ADC President Albert Mokhiber will begin a visit here on Nov. 20 to "begin the first

phase of a two-part plan to voice those needs and obtain the U.S. financial support needed to turn the rebuilding of Palestine into a reality."

During the Nov. 20 meeting in Amman, ADC said, it plans to discuss with Jordanian and Palestinian leaders and activists "what ADC can, and plans to do at this stage." In light of U.S. President Bill Clinton's urging during a meeting with the group on Sept. 14 "to come up with ideas and specific projects to assist in the implementation of the peace accord."

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Employment fund loans are restricted

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday sent a circular to government departments reminding employees that they are banned from applying for loans from the Development and Employment Fund. Certain employees have been applying for such loans in violation of rules since only unemployed persons are allowed to obtain these loans, said the prime minister.

#### Lands departments reports collections down by 30%

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lands and Survey Department in October collected JD 4,361,503 in fees for registering real estate, according to Ali Gharaibeh, the department director. He said that the figure was 30 per cent less than in September and down by two per cent in contrast with revenues collected in October 1992. Mr. Gharaibeh said that the department collected a total of JD 50,460,632 in the first 10 months of the year registering an increase of 14 per cent over the amount collected in the same period of last year.

#### Solar energy conference to start Nov. 21

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day Arab international conference will start in Amman on Nov. 21 to tackle solar energy related issues, according to an announcement by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). A total of 100 working papers on solar and alternative sources of energy such as wind power and their applications will be discussed. The meeting, the fourth of its kind to be held in Amman, is organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the Jordan Engineers Association. Participants will come from 35 Arab and foreign countries.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery (telephone 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'bi at Alla Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloos at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abu Zraq entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Amman) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- ★ Video film on art in English entitled "Cezanne" at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Westworld" at the American Center at 3:00 p.m. (90 minutes).
- ★ Film entitled "The Brothers Karamazov" at the American Center at 6:00 p.m. (150 minutes).

## To Music Lovers ..

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

### Two Recitals for Italian Week

#### Piano Recital Maestro Alberto Pomeranz

Friday, 5 November 1993, 7:30 pm.  
Ticket price : JD 10  
Ballroom of the Inter - Continental Hotel  
Featuring pieces by Liszt, Rossini, Mussorgsky and others

#### Opera Recital Mario Boccardo (Bartone)

and Barbara Cattabiani (Piano)  
Saturday, 6 November 1993, 8:00 pm.  
Ticket Price : JD 30

(includes fashion show and dinner)  
Ballroom of the Inter - Continental Hotel  
Featuring arias by Bellini, Puccini, Rossini, Verdi and others

Sponsored by : The Embassy of Italy, Hotel Inter - Continental Jordan, El-Zay, GFT, Alitalia  
Co-Sponsored by : Abu Shukra Trading, Campanile, La Firme Scarpa, Venefir.

Tickets available from : Hotel Inter - Continental, Tel. 641361  
National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

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## Jordan Times

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## Elections enrich democratisation

ON MONDAY Jordanians will head to the polls to choose their future representatives in Parliament. There has already been a great deal of speculation about which candidates will lead in the general elections. The one-person, one-vote formula is expected to take its toll on the political parties as well as individuals who gained strength in 1989. Parties and candidates now rely on different factors than those of 1989 to win the confidence and support of their constituencies for traditional ties have overwhelmed modern forms of association that bind voters and their future spokespersons in the Lower House of Parliament.

We know already the basis that led to the results of the last parliamentary elections. Next week we will also know the outcome of the new elections based on the new formula and we will have another appraisal of the elections.

While it is premature to judge the new situation as of now, it is certain that the outcome will bring with its new realities. In the process, Jordan will have learned a lot from both 1989 and 1993 experiences and will be able to use the results to perfect the process for conducting elections in the future on a more equitable and democratic basis.

What could tip the balance one way or another in the selection of the best ways to conduct elections will be the standard and performance of the new Lower House of Parliament. Will the new deputies be better educated, more enlightened and more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people? We already know something about the aspirant deputies. We have seen most of them and read their CVs. Some of them made their thoughts and positions loud and clear, while others kept them to themselves. Sifting the able from the disabed should not be a difficult task once Parliament is convened. On the political parties' level, there is no doubt that the results of the upcoming elections would determine their future fortunes. The end result could be the streamlining of political parties in a way that could better serve the contemporary needs of society.

There will come a time also when the newly-elected Parliament will have to pronounce itself not only on the PLO-Israeli peace deal but also on the conduct of Israeli-Jordanian negotiations. How members of the House would perform on such difficult tasks that call for sophistication and vision is something that we are all waiting to see.

But that is not all.

The domestic scene is full of issues that await resolution, ranging from education to taxation. The old Parliament busied itself with external subjects at the expense of many local topics, such as traffic, water and environment. Jordanians obviously look for representatives who will devote more attention to their woes. The economic situation will surely be high on people's mind. Whether it will attract the attention of their elected officials or not is something that will be clarified soon enough when the House tackles the 1994 budget.

So there is a great deal awaiting us and our new parliamentarians. At the end, our democratic traditions will be that much more enriched.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Wednesday warned that the Israeli proclivities and adamant stands displayed at the talks with the Palestinians in Taba could undermine the whole peace process. The Israelis are now following in their talks with the Palestinians a policy similar to that adopted in their negotiations with Arab parties in Washington and which so far resulted in no progress, said the daily. The Israelis seem to have adhered to the same old strategies which have proved futile and did not achieve any peace with any Arab party, continued the paper. In a further manifestation of its adamant position, said the paper the Israeli government is dragging its feet when it comes to releasing Palestinian prisoners, thus complicating matters and blocking the way for an agreement on steps to be taken towards the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule deal agreed on in September, added the paper. Faced with Israel's intransigence, the Palestinian negotiators had no alternative but to suspend the talks in Taba, the paper added. Of course the difficulties at Taba reflect the complexity of the situation and the fact that the talks are facing serious difficulties, it said. But should this situation be allowed to continue, concluded the daily, there is real concern that the obstacles might lead to the strengthening of the opposition on both sides who could well abort the whole peace process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily urged men and women to vote for women candidates in the Nov. 8 elections. Mona Zawaideh said that men entrust women with their children, their homes and their various properties and they should trust women to serve as representatives of the public and public interest in Parliament. Women form half of the society in Jordan, have equal rights with men and hold very important public positions, therefore, they ought to be trusted with matters of public interest and concern, said the writer. One, added the writer, can really realise the sufferings and the heavy burdens of women except women. She said that in the atmosphere of democracy and freedom, Jordanians should allow women access to Parliament.

# Urban expansion — a blessing and a curse

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

There is no doubt that since the mid-seventies in particular our society has made, and is still making, a noticeably positive impact on the environment, especially within town and city limits. Our towns and cities have for the most part become more spread out, spacious, and far better organised.

The downtown area in Amman is a living example of the happy change. Up until the late seventies, it was heavily crowded, remarkably disorganised and decidedly ugly and dirty. Virtually everyone who wanted to go from one section of the city to another or who wished to do some shopping had to pass through the downtown area, thus creating unnecessary human and traffic congestion. Only a person who knew the capital's centre well then can truly appreciate what it was really like. It used to take a motorist, especially during the unbearable rush hours, forty minutes or more to get out of an area which was no more than a square mile. Clearly, a person without a car had a tougher time.

The congestion and overcrowding were detrimental not only because they caused serious delays and inflicted psychological torture on people passing through or commuting daily, but also because they polluted the atmosphere and threatened people's physical health. In summer there was, as a result of traffic jams, a great deal of smog, fumes and odors of all kinds, noise and heat. The streets and alleys were very narrow, garbage was everywhere and aside from a couple of decent cafes there was no place to sit.

People who visited European, American and other more fortunate regions then brought back (they still do) fairy-tale accounts of their spaciousness, cleanliness and beauty. We dreamt of streets with garbage cans, of highways, bridges and tunnels, of green alleys, and of multi-storey parking lots. We fantasised about gardens, public parks, playgrounds, outdoor cafes with elegant waiters and waitresses and fancy restaurants. There was only one popular "park" in Amman, the tiny garden in Jabal Al Wajideh.

Today, the situation is dramatically different. You do not have to pass through or go shopping downtown, and if you do it is a pleasure. The congestion, even after the unexpected return of the returnees (from Kuwait) is significantly less annoying. The streets are cleaner and the landscape is greener. In fact, thanks to both the known and the unknown soldiers who

contributed to its remarkable development, Jordan, despite its limited resources and its humble geographic architectural grandeur (we have no Nile, no Omayyad Mosque, etc.), takes pride in its healthier and more aesthetically appealing towns and cities. Admittedly, they are neither London nor Paris, but they are certainly cleaner and more attractive than their counterparts in many neighbouring countries.

Having said this, however, I wish to emphasise that the battle for a better environment in the urban areas (and it is a battle indeed) is far from over. There are still many pressing problems to take care of and many improvements to carry out, some of which cannot be delayed any longer. I shall raise one such problem, which is ironically a result of the attempt to get rid of overcrowding and congestion — namely the somewhat haphazard, misguided and destructive expansion of our towns and cities. It is a situation where a blessing turns into a curse.

Let's take the outskirts of Irbid as an example. People who are familiar with the recent geographic history of the city (aptly named the Bride of the North) still fondly remember not only the immense size of the plains

surrounding it but also their beauty and appeal. Formerly, the Horan Plains rose to great prominence in the history of Greater Syria: they not only fed millions of people but were a source of pleasure and poetic inspiration. Today, what remains of them is still fertile and beautiful. However, they are being speedily swallowed up and are fast disappearing under the stretching suburbs, to the east, west, north and south.

Of course, I am not against the growth of our urban areas. Far from it, for as has just been illustrated in the Amman downtown story, I am all for it. Such growth, taking into account both the compelling natural and extraordinary factors behind population increase, is a must. We need to spread out and feel comfortable. And we thank God our citizens, the rich as well as the poor, can still manage to buy a piece of land and build a house. This is a privilege we highly appreciate. What I am against, however, is the arbitrariness, ruthlessness and chaos of this growth, as well as (more importantly) the huge consumption of physical space.

I can cite countless specific cases. One interesting and highly illustrative case is that of a girls' school built some decades ago in the middle of

the plain stretching between Irbid and Al Husein. We can think of at least four objections to the site. First, geologically, it is a bad choice. It is widely known, even to a layman like myself, that a house built on a hill is safer and firmer than one built on flat brown soil. A few years ago, a couple of buildings at Yarmouk University, which was itself erected inside an olive orchard, almost totally collapsed. Second, the school is located next to the Amman/Irbid main highway. Clearly, the highway is a constant hazard to those students who have to cross it daily and it is a major source of air pollution and disturbance. Third, the sizeable area, the school occupies is at the expense of a very fertile piece of land. Why should we go through the laborious process of reclaiming remote regions in the desert, wasting effort, money and water, when we have the best arable land at hand?

Naturally, the school attracted several inhabitants, real estate investors, restaurants, etc. A huge community college campus has just been completed. In a couple of years, the whole plain will vanish. This same story is repeated in nearly every town and city in the Kingdom.

My main objection, fourth-

ly, is based on aesthetic grounds. We need space for our own psychological health. Most people I have talked to in Irbid regret more than anything else the loss of the beauty of the outskirts. A human being is not only a stomach, we want more from our plains and fields than wheat bread, lentil soup or "muloukhia". Beauty is a need, and Ralph Waldo Emerson is right when he calls it a "nobler want of man." This is especially true in the urban areas where the natural scene functions to release the tension and ease the pressure. During the week people cannot afford to go to the mountains, Ajloun, the Dead Sea or even the Amman National Park. They want a nice landscape a lot closer. And frankly speaking, most of the gardens in our cities are too small and crowded.

Let our towns and cities expand, but let the expansion be carefully planned. More importantly, let's allocate more space to public parks and gardens within or adjacent to city and town limits. We need to breathe fresh air.

The writer is an associate professor of American literature in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Balqa has to grapple with a combination of many influences

(Continued from page 1)

a major support force for any candidate other than Mr. Zoubi and Dr. Bashir.

The Jordan Valley is divided into two distinct areas: North Shuneh and South Shuneh. The north district habitually supported, or at least bartered votes with, candidates in a bloc-voting electoral system, but this time around, many of its citizens will support indigenous candidates, some of whom are frontrunners for the Muslim seats, including an IAF candidate, Nael Zeidan Masalha.

Mr. Masalha, observers believe, although a strong contender for the seat, has less chances of winning than the other three official IAF candidates in the Balqa district.

The southern Ghor area is dominated by the Adwan tribe, which has five candidates among its members. Observers believe that none of them is a frontrunner in the race but leave possibilities open for former Deputy Sultan Majed Al Adwan.

In the city of Salt itself (known also as casba) three independent tribal-based candidates are said to be in good standing for Nov. 8. They are: Abdullah Ensour, Abdul Halim Hyassat and Hashem Dabbas. Dr. Ensour, who served as Balqa deputy in the 11th Parliament, is doing well with his own family, one of the biggest in the city, "and has a few

hiding places from which he will fish out sufficient votes on polling day," as an observer put it.

Although another member of the family, Khalid Ensour, is also running, very few expect that it will be a difficult entry onto the winning ticket for Mr. Ensour, who in 1989 won the highest votes with 19,609 on a platform of strong opposition to former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and combating official corruption.

Dr. Hyassat, a general practitioner who contested the race in 1989 but could only win 4,717 votes, is expected to fare better in 1993, having apparently secured the support of his clan which is also one of the big families of Salt.

Dr. Hyassat's chance of winning, many observers believe, depends largely on the level of his family's commitment to vote in his favour and the number of votes which he could attract from elsewhere.

Hashem Dabbas, given a preferential rating by most analysts and observers, appears to depend heavily on different sources for his vote. Other than his tribal base, estimated at 1,200 votes, he is expected to gain some votes from each of the other tribes in the city including the big families of Arabiyat, Bazazeh and Al Jazazieh.

The only leftist who stands a chance of winning in the

race in the Balqa district is Dr. Mustafa Shneikat, a communist-backed contender who apparently also enjoys tribal support. Analysts add that Dr. Shneikat also commands respect of the youth and the appreciation of the patients he treats at his clinic in Deir Alla, which has 13,755 votes that he is expected to share largely with Ali Shari, another contender who apparently is considered by analysts as a well-placed candidate.

The IAF will have to play against all these odds and overcome serious dissent among its ranks in the Balqa district. It has officially fielded four candidates for this district's race, one of whom, Dr. Oweidah of Baqaa Camp, is a very strong contender.

Should Dr. Oweidah win as expected, the question will be whether the other three IAF candidates will also win, lose or a combination of both. They are Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Ibrahim Massoud Al Khreissat and Mr. Masalha. Perhaps the Balqa district demonstrates more closely than any other in the Kingdom the predicament the front has found itself in after announcing the names of 36 candidates for the 1993 elections, a staggering figure which the front cannot hope to push to Parliament under the one-person, one-vote formula.

The front's district office, in its preliminary elections for choosing candidates, only

selected three candidates for this race which included Dr. Arabiyat, Dr. Oweidah and Mr. Masalha and excluded Mr. Khreissat from the race, sources told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Khreissat, however, insisted on contesting the polls along with another candidate, Abdullah Ali Riyalat, who is also running for elections but on an independent Islamist platform.

According to the sources, Mr. Khreissat was later imposed on the district by the head office of the IAF in Amman, but Mr. Riyalat was excluded.

This had led to outright competition between Dr. Arabiyat, a former speaker of the House, on the one hand, and Mr. Khreissat (former speaker for the parliamentary bloc of the Brotherhood) and Mr. Riyalat on the other — a struggle that is hurting Mr. Arabiyat's standing among the Baqaa camp voters and independent Islamists.

Most analysts believe that the front will put its weight heavily behind Mr. Arabiyat on polling day in a bid to ensure his success, paying less attention in the process to supporting the other candidates.

Mr. Riyalat, who has been using his position as an imam in a mosque to lash out at the front's strategy, according to city sources, has a very small chance of reaching Parliament.

Behind the numbers and

the calculations of tribes, parties, clans and the camp, the people of the Balqa district have an array of grievances and complaints that have not found their way to the banners of candidates in this campaign.

What is evident, in fact, is that most candidates are aiming to remind the voters of their names, leaving promises and slogans out of huge banners, some of which have been hung in such a way that they could be seen from kilometres away.

But voters appear to be ready to put their grievances aside for another four-year term of Parliament to ensure that their tribe or clan finds its way to a seat under the dome and by extension to national recognition.

The only exception to this rule will be in the choice of a candidate for the Christian seat which is about the only easy guess in the Balqa district elections. The services-starved among the citizens of Balqa will cast a strong vote of confidence for Samir Kawar, who is vying for one of the two Christian seats contested by another three Christians, with unanimous expectations that former Deputy Fawzi Shaker Tuameh will be reelected. Mr. Kawar is applauded by citizens for serving his area as a cabinet minister — he served as minister of water and irrigation — who had come under heavy criticism for using his post exactly to ensure reelection.

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He said Israel's plan, introduced at Taba, indicated the Jewish state wanted merely to shift the location of its troops in Gaza rather than remove them.

"The plan that was presented to us really amounts to reoccupation, not redeployment, not withdrawal," Dr. Shaath told Israel's army radio. "It is a very limited redeployment."

Abraham Mattar, an official in the PLO delegation, said Israel "must choose" between peace and maintaining the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

PLO delegates accused Israel of wanting to carve up the Gaza Strip into a "series of islands" under a plan to encamp troops in three fortified areas of settlement.

In Syria, the government daily Tishrin on Wednesday renewed the country's criticism of the autonomy deal.

"Those who believed in the pacifist intentions of Israel have received a shock and realised they were deluding themselves," it said. "Israel has always refused to withdraw from occupied territories."

Mr. Rabin pledged to forge ahead with the peace process Wednesday despite losing control of Jerusalem after 45 years amid a stinging defeat in local elections.

"I will relent in our efforts for peace, even if the conditions are more difficult," Mr. Rabin said as the results unex-

## Palestinians indifferent

(Continued from page 1)

the majority of Israelis reject peace.

He said he feared that Mr. Olmert's victory would lead to "provocations, risking violence between Israelis and Palestinians and a resurgence of colonisation."

Only five per cent of Jerusalem's budget was allocated to the eastern sector, he complained.

Hosni Hassan, a grocer, said the result "will not alter our situation at all."

"At least with Likud there will be no surprises. We know what to expect. With Teddy Kolk we were living in uncertainty," Mr. Hassan said.

Mr. Olmert said Wednesday he would probably give settlers a permit for further construction in East Jerusalem and would support Jews living in any part of the city.

Jewish settler leaders said they were confident the Hawikish Olmert would be their ally in a campaign to build Jewish bridgeheads throughout East Jerusalem and to cement Israeli control over the Holy City.

Just hours after being elected, the 48-year-old lawyer declared his support for Jewish settlement in Arab neighbourhoods.

"Every Jew can purchase property anywhere in Jerusalem and anywhere in the land of Israel and I don't conceive of acting otherwise," Mr. Olmert said in an Israeli Radio interview.

## Germany praises Jordan, pledges backing

(Continued from page 1)

Asked whether Germany was considering any further debt relief to Jordan, which owes it around DM 70 million (about JD 32 million), Mr. Kinkel said the overall German contribution to the Kingdom's debt relief was DM 95 million (about JD 42 million). He did not elaborate. No immediate explanation of the figure, was available.

"We are more than willing to help Jordan in the framework and the Paris Club" of creditor governments, said Mr. Kinkel, who also held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, Finance Minister Sami Gammo and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi. "We find Jordan as the most indebted country," he said.

The minister, paying the third visit to the Middle East after assuming office 18 months ago, said the problems Jordan faced as a result of its adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq and the enforcement of the embargo on Aqaba-bound shipping were also discussed during his talks here.

"I would not like to go into the details" of the discussions in this regard, said Mr. Kinkel, who also visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The German minister voiced appreciation of the democratisation process under way in Jordan and said during his talks here he found the Jordanian

government confident that the outcome of the Nov. 8 general elections would be "satisfactory."

Noting that his country had a two-million-strong Muslim population, 1.8 million of them Turks, Mr. Kinkel said he fully supported a call by Prince Hassan for an inter-faith dialogue and that Jordan and Germany would cooperate to advance the proposal.

On a bilateral level, Germany will respond positively to a Jordanian request for German expertise in improving the education system and training techniques, he said.

The German minister, who left for home Wednesday evening, said his political discussions here dealt with the Israel-PLO accord, the Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace talks and the apparent deadlock in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations with Israel.

In his two earlier trips to the Middle East, Mr. Kinkel visited Israel, Tunisia, Syria and Egypt.

The topics he discussed during his several-hour visit to Jordan after arriving from Saudi Arabia also included the regional situation, Iran, Iraq and conflicts in Somalia and Bosnia as well as the "need to strengthen" the United Nations.

He said that during his "short, but worthwhile and fruitful talks" here, Jordan supported proposals that Germany assume a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Kinkel said his government was doing the best it can

to ensure the security of relief efforts to Somalia within the constitutional constraints imposed on it.

On Bosnia, he said Germany felt that a solution to the problem of former Yugoslavia "should not come at the expense of the weak party — that is the Muslims."

He called on all parties to "return to the negotiating table," noting that with the onset of winter, the plight of people displaced from their homes would get worse.

He said Germany appreciated Jordan's contribution of up to 2,000 servicemen to the U.N. peace-keeping force in Croatia.

Noting that the Maastricht Treaty on European union took effect Monday, Mr. Kinkel said King Hussein "acknowledged that it was the first step" towards a comprehensive European Community approach to various issues.

The community wants to deal with the Middle East peace process "in a special way," Mr. Kinkel said.

He rejected a suggestion that Germany and the U.S. had serious differences in approach to Iran after the recent visit to Germany of the Iranian minister of intelligence, triggering protests from Washington and London. Mr. Kinkel described the difference as only "shades" and said Germany was involved in a "critical dialogue" with Iran in view of that country's "political weight" in the Gulf region.

"We don't believe that Iran should be isolated," he said.

## PLO pledges security in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

PLO leader since the signing of the peace agreement with Israel, Mr. Clinton thanked Mr. Arafat for his role and affirmed U.S. support for the Middle East peace process.

"We should all work to fulfill our pledge to achieve peace for all the peoples in the Middle East," Wafa quoted Mr. Clinton as telling Mr. Arafat in an Arabic version of the message.

The agency did not give further details. It said a similar telegram was sent to Mr. Arafat Wednesday by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

PLO sources said both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Christopher urged Mr. Arafat to continue discussions with the Israelis.

Sources in Taba said what brought the break in the Taba talks was that Israel's plan to protect Gaza's Jewish settlers travelling the strip's main roads, leaving them to interfere in Palestinians' lives.

Dr. Shaath said Palestinians could protect the settlers without Israeli soldiers, adding that he expected United Nations or other multinational troops to augment a Palestinian security force of some 10,000 men.

"We are prepared to guarantee full security to everyone in the Gaza Strip through a capable and well-equipped Palestinian peace force," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath, who was to travel to Tunis to consult with Mr. Arafat, gave no details on possible use of foreign troops

linked to an Israeli-Palestinian plan or whether the idea was approved by Israel.

He said Israel's plan, introduced at Taba, indicated the Jewish state wanted merely to shift the location of its troops in Gaza rather than remove them.

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"I will relent in our efforts for peace, even if the conditions are more difficult," Mr. Rabin said as the results unex-

pectedly showed major right-wing gains in Tuesday's polls (See separate story).

"I was hoping for a clear message in favour of the peace process and I cannot say I am satisfied."

Unfortunately it was Mr. Rabin himself who turned the town hall elections into a test for his peace policy.

Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu seized on the results as a boost for his call for early elections over the PLO autonomy deal.

"These results prove that on the streets the Likud is the most popular party in Israel," Mr. Netanyahu said.

A leading Palestinian wanted by Israel turned himself in Wednesday, saying he hoped the surrender would help the PLO-Israel peace deal.

Israeli soldiers briefly interviewed Hisham Joudeh, who was on their most wanted list for 18 months, and let him go.

Mr. Joudeh, 28, a commander of Fatah, was escorted by several Fatah leaders when he surrendered at Israeli military headquarters in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Rafah.

Several hundred Palestinians accompanied Mr. Joudeh on a march from his home in Rafah refugee camp.

"I surrender in accordance with the ceasefire agreement to allow the peace efforts to succeed," Mr. Joudeh said reporters.

Afterwards he said Israeli interrogators asked him if he had been involved in killing Israelis.



## Fellini's fascination for women

By Marie-Therese Delboulbes  
Agence France Presse

PARIS — Federico Fellini, the Italian film director who died in Rome Sunday, once said: "I would never have gone into films if I had not been hopelessly in love with women."

His work is shot through with images of harlots and mechanical dolls, female giants and dwarves, whores and sad clowns, and occasionally a flash of purity to redeem sin.

"I am saturated with images of women," said Fellini, who was married for the past 50 years to the uncomplaining Giulietta Masina.

"I believe it is possible to love three women at the same time," he said.

In *City Of Women*, a film that featured 2,600 women, he revealed his obsessions, his fears and his fantasies.

He said of it: "I have the impression that all my films are about women. I feel completely at their mercy. I feel good when I am with them."

"They are myth, mystery, otherness, fascination, they are the desire to know them. Women are everything."

He once compared the cinema itself, plunged into

darkness, with the womb.

He consulted feminists before making *City Of Women* in 1980, an allegory in which Snoporaz, played by Marcello Mastroianni, has a nightmare.

The voyage of his subconscious takes him by turns to a feminist conference where delegates proclaim that the menopause is a male invention, then to a museum to the Phallus, the home of an insatiable lecher.

Mastroianni's character is a stand-in for Fellini himself. He is assaulted, raped, drowned.

A woman forces him to get on a motorbike, another makes him roller-skate, a third shows him the attributes of her six husbands.

The feminists, some of whom starred in the film, were upset by the images of monstrous, castrating ogres that they saw.

Fellini's disingenuous reply was: "How could I think of making a film about women? It's absurd. How could I think of making a film about something about which I know nothing. It's not a film about women, it's a film about a man."

It was not the first time he had been accused of misogyny, a charge levelled at him after he made *Casanova* in 1976.

The fantasies that peopled his films helped him work through his inhibitions.

*Casanova* holds a mirror up to a loveless world where Don Juan takes his pleasure with a mechanical doll.

In *City Of Women*, the automation gives way to a giant blow-up doll. In his 1973 film *Satyricon*, the boy protagonist Titta is fascinated by the nipples of the giant clerk, but it is a dwarfish nun who persuades his mad uncle Theo to come down from the tree where he has been hollering for a woman.

But Fellini's world of women is not solely a land of freaks. The sight of Anita Ekberg bathing in the Trevi Fountain in his 1960 masterpiece *La Dolce Vita* is etched into the memory of filmgoers.

"For me too, that film and its image are inextricably linked with Anita," Fellini said 25 years later.

Other beautiful women made a lasting impression — Anouk Aimee, for one, and Magali Noel, the sym-



The late Italian film director Federico Fellini is seen with his wife Giulietta Masina at the Cannes Film Festival on Oct. 18, 1993 (AFP photo)

bol of sensuality in *Amarcord* and *Satyricon*. Counterpoised against

the decadence, the Roman Catholic Fellini set the smile of a young girl against

the drowned corpse of a sailor on a beach at the end of *La Dolce Vita*.

## As fires burn, movie cameras keep rolling

By Matt Spetalnick  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood has greeted the firestorm raging at its doorstep the way it deals with most major disasters — by making a movie out of it.

When brush fires spread to the hills north of Los Angeles, a crew shooting the low-budget western *Cheyenne Warrior* decided it was the perfect chance to film the wagon train fire they needed for the film.

Cameras focused on a few hot spots to get the shots they wanted before crew members joined local residents fleeing the Simi

Valley area, production managers said.

In downtown Los Angeles, the crew of the ABC Television series *NYPD Blue* had no complaints about the fine gray ash that showered their filming location. Producers said it would make it look more like New York, the actual setting for the programme.

Hollywood insiders said the \$500 million conflagration that leveled entire neighbourhoods, some with multistory mansions, was all but certain to end up as a made-for-TV movie. A miniseries about the 1.75 billion Oakland fire of 1991 ran earlier this year.

While some in the nation's entertainment capital found a way to make the best of a bad situation, others felt the heat all too personally.

Country music star Dwight Yoakam's ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains was burned to the ground. "You just can't imagine, you can't fathom it," he said sadly.

An advancing fire chased Jack Nicholson from his Malibu Beach house, but it was spared any damage.

Nearly 50 acres (20 hectares) of ranchland surrounding actor Tom Selleck's Hidden Valley ranch were destroyed, and he rushed to help neighbours

move their horses out of harm's way. Caretakers on actor Robert Wagner's spread had to evacuate livestock.

Ranches in the area belonging to Sophia Loren and Sylvester Stallone were threatened before winds caused advancing fires to change direction.

A lioness and a leopard at the Animal Actors of Hollywood compound in the Santa Monica Mountains were shot to death when trainers were unable to evacuate the big cats as fire raced toward the area, officials said.

Mark Harden, a 15-year trainer, told the Los Angeles Daily News the li-

ness was too infirm to transport and the leopard was too dangerous. He said "it was an ethical choice" to kill the cats rather than leave them to suffer in the flames.

The menagerie of about 100 animals — including dogs, birds and other big cats — used in Hollywood productions — was moved safely before fires burned within yards of the compound.

Tony Duquette, a 79-year-old Tony Award-winning artist, lost many of his own works plus a collection of folk art and Hollywood memorabilia when his ranch near Malibu went up in flames.

Since the fires erupted,

the syndicated television show *Entertainment Tonight* has devoted a portion of its broadcast to how the stars have fared.

Even though southern California is where most of the filming is done in the United States, only a few productions were affected.

Filming was interrupted on the more remote beaches and in the rugged canyons around Malibu, the California Film Commission said. One of the lucky few to get through before fires forced the shutdown Wednesday was the crew of *Tammy And The Teen-Age T-Rex*. They filmed until officials forced them out.

## Anger rises against uncovered women on magazine covers

By Brian Murphy  
The Associated Press

ROME — For a news story about political kickbacks, a magazine cover, shows a naked woman sprinkled with banknotes. An anti-smoking article features a topless woman puffing a cigar.

Italy's major news magazines are as well known for the flesh they expose as the stories they uncover. Bare breasts regularly appear on the covers as an X-rated invitation to subjects as lurid as sex clubs or as light as summer vacations.

But after years of being served cheesecake photos, some people are getting fed up.

A women's group has started a campaign to draw attention to what they call the gratuitous use of naked women, and others including the Vatican and a presidential commission have joined in the criticism.

The protests are probably not enough to convince editors to tone down their covers in the hyper-competitive Italian magazine market, where many publications live or die on newsstand sales.

But the rumblings suggest the covers could be pushing the boundaries of public tolerance — even given Italy's easygoing attitudes that allow nudity on prime-time television and porn stars to

become successful politicians.

"The weekly magazines use naked women only to sell more. In fact, the covers rarely correspond with the magazine's contents. This is a form of violence," said Gabriele Moscatelli, vice president of Pink Telephone, a women's group that had led the opposition to the racy covers.

The organisation is now conducting a survey of well-known Italian men on their feelings about the covers of the major news magazines — *Panorama*, *L'Espresso* and *L'Europeo*, which each have a predominately male readership.

An earlier Pink Tele-

phone report said about 30 per cent of the magazine covers since 1991 showed a naked or semi-clad woman.

Other powerful voices have spoken out against the covers, giving the issue just the hint of an American-style political correctness showdown.

After a 31-nation European conference on women's rights last week, the Vatican denounced the use of "women as objects" in the mass media, saying it's "sometimes difficult to distinguish advertising from pornography."

A presidential commission on gender relations issued a statement supporting the Vatican and de-

crying the "commercialisation of the female body."

Some newspaper commentators have joined the clamour.

The magazines, however, quickly point out that Italian television offers just as much skin.

"At 8 o'clock there are naked women running around saying, 'look how good this soap is,'" said Antonangelo Pinna, a top editor at *L'Espresso*. "This is Italy."

"We need to be noticed on the newsstand. It's a fact: An attractive woman wearing little clothes catches the eye."

One cover showed a topless woman with blue-tinted skin and spiked hair holding a photo of Umberto Bossi, head of the Northern League political party.

*L'Espresso's* Oct. 29 issue featured actress Sharon Stone smoking a cigar and cupping her breasts with her hand.

Such photos are not uncommon on European newsstands, but it seems to be where the loudest calls are made for change.

"Sure, I'm offended by seeing naked women on the magazine covers," said Juliet Piscino as she purchased a newspaper in Rome. "But do I think they will change them because it bothers women? The answer is no."

## Designer drugs fuel Spanish 'Bacalao Route'

By Tracey Ober  
Reuters

MADRID — Every Friday night, the highway from Madrid to Valencia, known as the "Bacalao Route", is jammed with youngsters out for adventure.

They party continuously until early Monday morning, then make the 350 kilometres journey home, exhausted, but their determination to have a good time undiminished.

Every big city has its own version of "Bacalao", a word once associated with a Spanish fish dish but latterly linked with the mind-numbing music played at discos.

The government is slowly realising that the "rave" parties of Britain and the United States have arrived in Spain. To combat the

problem this summer, the Civil Guard erected roadblocks outside the popular "Bacalao" sites.

Most "Bacalao" discotheques are on the outskirts of cities, accessible only by car. Parking lots are almost as popular as the discos and cars are a haven for sex and drugs.

Spain's Toxicology Institute estimates that 58.4 per cent of car accidents last year were directly related to drugs or alcohol and most involved young people.

Designer drugs such as ecstasy are just catching on in the frenetic night life of the Spanish teenager, their popularity fuelled by peer pressure.

The pulsating theme song of the "Bacalao Route" proclaims "extra si, extra no" — a reference to

the drug.

"At first I was scared to try 'X', but then everyone was saying how easy it was," said Javier, a 21-year-old student in Madrid. He and some friends shared an ecstasy tablet one Friday night and found that life seemed much more glamorous.

"I was like another person, I was sexy and funny," Javier says. "The girls wanted to dance with me."

He takes it when he can afford it — street value is 5,000 pesetas (\$38) a pill — or takes "speed" (amphetamines) or inhales the legal vasodilator known as "rush" in the United States and "poper" in Spain.

Police seized 45,000 ecstasy pills last year, twice what they found in 1991. In August, they dismantled a

synthetic drug factory producing 500 pills an hour.

Large amounts of cocaine are still seized, as well as Spain's most widely used drug, heroin, but its use is waning.

"In certain sectors, I'm talking about young people, ecstasy use is definitely increasing," says Francisco Ramon of the government's National Drug Plan.

"Heroin has a very bad image now, partly because of AIDS. It's considered the drug of outsiders, not like cocaine, which is fashionable among establishment people."

Cocaine use is still common in the poshest of Madrid's discos. But the "old guard" would find it hard to keep up with the 16 to 25-year-olds of the "Bacalao Route."

Offspring of Spain's boom years, they have an apparent disregard for money and binge for days at a time. A typical weekend costs about 25,000 to 100,000 pesetas (\$190 to \$750) for petrol, drugs and alcohol.

Even though Spain's economy has faltered, parents still seem prepared to hand out money so their children can enjoy life in a way they never could.

"I had to work when I was young and I was always poor," says Amparo, a Seville mother of six. "My kids know a different world." She does not know what they do with the money, but gives them freedom as long as she does not see signs of abuse.

When the money runs low, the teenagers either

share drugs or split one pill into fragments, a tendency that can lead to dealing.

"It's wild every night here," said one Valencian. He works as a bartender and sells ecstasy and speed to friends on the side.

He is 28 but looks 20 years older and wonders what else he can do. "I'm exhausted, but with this kind of dough, how can I stop?"

"There is a social climate of total permissiveness for drugs and alcohol," said Lino Salas of Proyecto Hombre (Project, Man).

He said teenagers start drinking as young as 12 and progress to hashish a year later. They start taking pharmacy and designer drugs at 16, followed by cocaine and heroin at 17.

### Amman Cultural Pulse

## An obsession for being the first

By Mohammad Masharga

There is a tendency among Jordanians these days to describe their cultural and artistic activities as being "the first" to be introduced to the public.

For instance, they say in describing their work, "the first music festival," or "the first poetry seminar," or "the first short story symposium," etc.

It is indeed surprising to hear this, as if Jordanians do not recognise cultural activities that occurred before. Indeed some writers have already voiced their criticism of this phenomenon and they say such tendency reflects a wrong idea that no artistic activity has ever taken place in Jordan before.

Some observers attribute this phenomenon to the fact that Jordan is now tasting democracy following a long period of martial law rule, thus opening the door for cultural and artistic works.

The Ministry of Culture has probably created the opportune climate for this situation, having set up more than 107 cultural and artistic forums around the Kingdom. These forums have encouraged the public to organise festivals and cultural seminars, and cooperate with the various societies.

Some of these societies have directed their attention towards political affairs, in addition to cultural issues, by issuing statements expressing their opposition to government measures. One of these societies was the Jordanian Writers Association which has issued a statement voicing its opposition to the country's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic restructuring programmes in the Kingdom.

Other observers consider this phenomenon as a disregard to the achievements of earlier Jordanians who had indeed established the Jordanian artistic movement, presenting works in theatre and music, though they lacked the academic background for this kind of work.

The past decade witnessed the graduation of a large number of artists from universities and specialised institutes in the country and abroad. This new generation of artists has started to acquire a place within the artistic community and indeed started competing with the old generation.

However, the only festival that can rightly call itself the first of its kind was the first Jordanian Children's Festival which was due to have taken place on Oct. 1, 1993. The festival was called off because the Ministry of Culture decided that the text of songs and the tunes were not up to the standard for presenting at a festival.

Head of the Ministry's Children's Theatre Department Wafaa Qusous says that the words of the children's songs, which number 23, were artistically and culturally unsuitable for the festival which was to be sponsored by the Ministry of Culture.

Ms. Qusous says that the majority of the songs presented to the organising committee were mostly stubbed with meaningless political wordings, totally ignoring the educational, cultural and other elements such as friendship, love and their values.

Ms. Qusous expresses her regret over the fact that Jordan still lacks proper children's songs writers who were expected to rise to the level of the new requirements of developments in our life.

"People who are overburdened with the hardships of life and are facing psychological pressures all the time are in need of joy, singing and a new outlook towards the future with optimism and love," Ms. Qusous says.

Finally Ms. Qusous had to exchange the festival for a workshop dealing with children's songs and music. The workshop was held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Oct. 25 and 26 and was attended by academics and song-writers as well as musicians, educationalists and teachers from government and private schools.

The workshop divided the participants into two groups: One discussing the language and the literature of the songs for children at different age levels and the other tackling examples of songs that are being presented at schools in English and Arabic.

"The workshop was necessary to clarify a number of cultural concepts pertaining to the children's songs," Ms. Qusous notes. "The dialogue that took place manifested the dire need for greater efforts to be exerted in writing children's songs and that the tune should accompany the words in depth and in presentation."

One of the participants, Gazi Al Arabi, who is also a musician, said that those making music for children often forget or ignore the cultural side of music and tend to neglect the sense of imagination which music can create in the minds of the young.

The workshop witnessed a debate over the question of employing classical Arabic in children's songs. The traditionalists stressed that Arabic is the language of their fathers and ancestors and should be respected in its classical form. Others said that the aim of the song, regardless of its form or language, is primarily aimed at serving educational and cultural objectives and presenting values with much care for the classical language.

### ART EXHIBITIONS

This week most art galleries are replete with exhibitions of all kinds.

Ahmad Ismail mounted an exhibition at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel Gallery presenting a rather unusual array of paintings on a variety of topics. Ismail has opted for Arab history and the tales of the One Thousand And One Nights.

Paula Brown, of the United States, presented her exhibition of black and white photographs depicting the Greco-Roman city of Jerash.

### THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Fashion can be bought. Style one must possess — Edna Woolman Chase, American fashion editor (1877-1957).

The trouble with progress is that it goes forward, not backward

— Oscar Wilde, Irish-born playwright (1854-1900).

هكذا منذ البداية



# Amman Computer Expo-93

By Jean-Claude Elias

The '93 edition of Amman Computer Expo that ended last week was a true image of what is happening in the world of Information Technology (IT) in general and Personal Computing (PC) in particular.

Organised on a yearly basis by the Jordan Computer Society, the event has reached beyond the Kingdom's boundaries. Though representing a small fraction of the total number of visitors, guests from several Arab countries now come and enjoy a professionally prepared exhibition.

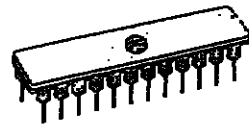
Upon entering the Expo hall, one is immediately attracted by the clear general layout, the pavilions' pleasant design and colours, and the feeling that the event is an international one.

After the very positive first impression and having admired the "cosmetic" part of the show, one gets to the real work and starts the visit of each section.

Most companies this year seem to have emphasised the multi-media aspect of PCs. Multi-media is the combination of audio and video technologies, linked to optical discs, music synthesizers and video cameras, the whole setup being computer controlled. With the right equipment and the required know-how one can do wonders in terms of music production, video animation, virtual images and computer generated TV commercials. The creation, the editing and the synchronisation of the sound and the image become a producer's dream.

Another sector of innovation is the recent introduction of high resolution colour printers. So far, PC users had to do with either good quality, black and white printers or low quality colour ones, with the exception of Hewlett-Packard's PaintJet. On display at the Expo

## chip talk



were three interesting new models of quality colour printers, some of them using laser technology and others using thermal wax. The extreme difference in price however will make more than potential buyer stop and think. Prices range from JD 1,000 up to JD 12,000.

Apart from the multi-media solutions and the colour printers, there were no real hardware innovations presented. On the other hand, Microsoft's Windows for Workgroups and Windows NT really made the news. These two, recently introduced versions of the now famous Windows allow the connection of several PCs together, on a Local Area Network (LAN), so they can share information.

Except for a minority of very technically minded people, PC users now realise that software is what they need and not hardware. The latter is only here to run the former. If a washing machine could run Windows and the other programmes I use, I would gladly get rid of my computer.

Overall, the Amman Computer Expo is a well organised, very informative and professional show that should continue over the years and hopefully keep improving with time.

# Between success and failure

By E. Yaghi

As far as Carol was concerned with life at the university, nothing ever got easier with the passage of time. Her courses became harder, she felt she had less time than ever before and to make matters extremely difficult, she was required to take a translation course as a requisite for her major in English literature. Being an older student proved difficult enough, being foreign either an extra disadvantage or privilege, whichever reigned opportune or not during any given circumstance.

"I am becoming so tired," she complained to herself as she walked down the path of knowledge one brisk autumn morning when the world smelled like pink and yellow roses, fresh mown grass and a scent of pine, "and it is as though I fail to please anyone anymore, least of all, myself. And sometimes when I least mean to, I hurt the ones I love the most! Is it because I am becoming more and more frustrated?"

Later on, as she joined her fellow students for her last lecture for the day, the cloud of depression that clung to Carol's mind grayed even further and she was faced with many words on a page that meant little to her. Trying to decipher some sense out of the script printed in Arabic was much more difficult to her than finding a needle in a haystack yet she had little choice. There was only a few days left until the exam. How could she grow competent enough to pass? What alternative might there be to solve her lack of knowledge in Arabic?

"It is so humiliating to accept defeat on any exam!" she exclaimed to one of her classmates seated next to her. "If my ignorance in Arabic were under my control, then when I fail, I would be so embarrassed. Naturally, I will still be embarrassed, but there is no choice left to me. How can I learn enough Arabic to pass this translation course? If only there were some intensive courses available to foreign students like me which are included in the curriculum of the university, then I might have a slim chance of passing, but as it is, with my less than elementary background in standard Arabic, my success in passing this course looks very bleak indeed."

"I will help you if you'd like," her colleague offered. "How about seriously considering a brain transplant? I think that is the best solution to my problem. It is so ironic, because I have wanted to learn Arabic for quite some time now, but there has been no opportunity. I feel like being forced to take this course at this stage in my studies is like putting dark glasses on a blind person and asking him to see. I consider myself almost sightless in Arabic. I try so hard, but with my scanty background in my target language I lack sufficient light to enable me to see."

"Well, part of your weakness in Arabic is your own fault," her friend advised.

"True, I have no one to blame but myself actually, but it is so easy for you to judge because you have a good English background from elementary school and thus, might find a second language difficult, but not impossible. On the other hand, I have not had any sort

of regular Arabic lessons. Everything that I know, or rather, what little I know, I picked up in spurts of eagerness at home learning and then something new would inevitably pop up and I deserted my quest. One should always be grateful for knowledge, for it is as precious as life itself."

After an hour of frustrating translation in-class exercises, Carol became only too happy when the lecture was over and she was free to go home. She usually departed the huge domes of her beloved university in low spirits and deep frustration due to the hopelessness of her translation course and today was no exception. She slowly strode towards the newly built underground tunnel, descended the steps and could not help but notice the bright lights, the shining marble flooring and the cheery atmosphere of people coming and going which so sharply contrasted with her mood of despair. "At least, we students should be very grateful for this tunnel. It is short, attractive and much more convenient than climbing all those slippery stairs of the bridge that spans the two-way highway."

Outside the tunnel, she hailed a yellow cab hopped inside and became whisked away home as if she were inside a golden chariot drawn by fire-breathing dragons rescuing her from her dismal fate. But, she was not Cinderella, nor even Snow White and she must eat that poisoned apple and survive. Once at home, after lunch had been served to her large family, she dragged herself off to her chambers to try to study for her translation exam. It all seemed so hopeless. She didn't even know where to begin!

On the day of the exam, Carol did not feel her usual panic most often experienced during tests. She only felt an overwhelming hopelessness, for the only outcome she could expect was complete failure. Her poor husband had also suffered for with every translation homework she endeavoured to do, he joined in with moans and groans over the impossibility of conforming a non-native speaking learner of Arabic to someone competent enough to pass exams.

"Sometimes," Carol confessed to him, "I feel that I am so alone at the university. Even though there are students that I adore, this feeling of being alone sometimes overpowers me. And that feeling too that all my efforts are in vain! But surely, to accept defeat is the worst sin! The best advice I ever received was, 'to never give up!' There are thorns strewn on the way towards the path of knowledge and my feet are worn out and bloodied and my burden is sometimes too heavy to bear, yet I cannot, must not, accept defeat for then I would never be able to live with myself and all my efforts to improve myself in the wonderful land of knowledge will have been in vain. I have delved in the world of English literature and have found the key to inspiration and illumination and what I study is the story of life itself."

And then she concluded with a fit of contagious laughter, "You know what? I think my translation professor should pass me just for letting him laugh at my impossible sentence structure and my handwriting that looks like a child's! Surely, no student's exam could amuse him like mine."

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### SAY IT IN ARABIC

#### SMOKING

- Will you have a cigarette? *Hal torred sigarah?*
- Yes, please. *Na'am, arjook.*
- I always smoke after my meals. *Ana da'imam odakhin ba'dal-aki.*
- It is an old habit of mine. *Hiya adati minkadeem el-zaman.*
- What a bad habit. *Ya laha min ada sayy-i-a.*
- Can't you leave off? *Hal yomkinoka tarkoha?*
- I would be too nervous, if I did. *Law fa'alto zalek, sirto asabiyan.*
- Do you smoke much. *Hal todakhin kathiran.*
- Not so much as you. *Laysa kathiran mithlak.*
- Smoking is prohibited here. *Al-tad'kheen mamnoo bona.*
- Stop smoking and save your health and wealth. *Tawakkaf anit'tadkhin wa ankiz si'hattak wa tharwatak.*

#### HUMOUR

ALI: Would you mind telling me how you and your wife live amicably as this is something unusual to me?

AHMAD: That's simple. We act according to a set plan which had been already accepted by both of us. My wife takes the important decisions.

ALI: This seems very sensible, but what are the important and unimportant decisions?

AHMAD: Those which concern my coming back home, my pocket money and the places where I spend my holidays are not important.

Sitting upright on his sofa, Ahmad said: "As for the important decisions here is one living example: Can the U.N. compel Israel to implement the Security Council resolutions?"

#### PUZZLES

There happened a desolation between a blear-eyed man and his wife. The husband wanted to take the advice of one of his jurist friends in a bid to reconcile between them.

The judge said to her: "Abu Mohammad is a great sheikh, so please never care of his blearing eye, his slender legs, his weak knees or his stiff palms!"

On hearing this, the blear-eyed man said: "Woe to you, you've revealed to her my defects which she had never known before."

#### PUZZLES

HELEN, sporting a new dress, strutted down the office building corridor with Portia.

"How do you like my new outfit?" asked Helen with a smile.

"It's chic."

"I'm going to be the envy of all the office women. Notice how they all look at me when I walk down the hall."

"Yes, I notice."

"Even the men do a double take."

"That's wonderful," commented Portia. "But I should tell you something."

"What?"

"Your slip is showing!!"

#### PUZZLES

MR. HARRIS: It seems our delivery boy is dishonest.

MRS. HARRIS: Oh, you mustn't judge by appearances.

MR. HARRIS: I'm not, I'm judging by disappearances!

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

BENELUX ECONOMIC UNION: Economic treaty entered into (1958) by Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands to promote economic integration among

themselves through free movement of workers, capital, goods and services.

#### PUZZLES

GREEN REVOLUTION: Popular term referring mainly to the large increase achieved in GRAIN production in certain under-developed areas—especially India, Pakistan and the Philippines in the late 1960s. It was accompanied through the use of high-yielding hybrids, chemical fertilizers and new crop strategies and harvesting methods.

#### PUZZLES

DIME NOVELS: Swift-moving thrillers, mainly about the American Revolution, the frontier period and the Civil War. First sold in 1860 for 10 cents, the books featured such real life adventures as Buffalo Bill, Ned Buntline and Deadwood Dick and such fictional characters as Nick Carter. The quality of the novels dropped in 1880s, and they were eclipsed by other series, pulp magazines and comic strips in 1890s.

### COOKING IS FUN

#### BATATA MAHSHI

#### STUFFED POTATOES

- 6 large potatoes
- 6 tablespoons white cheese
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg, salt and pepper
- 1 gill sour cream
- 3 tablespoons chives, chopped.
- 6 tablespoons minced cooked tongue
- 1 tablespoon melted butter

#### METHOD

Wash potatoes, rub skins of each one with a little good oil and bake at 400 degrees F. for 1½ hours. Cool slightly.

Scrape out insides, taking great care not to break the shell which for convenience sake should be about ½ inch thick.

Mix potato insides with sour cream, cheese, chives, nutmeg, tongue and seasoning and melted butter.

Pile this mixture into shells, dot with butter and brown quickly in a very hot oven (500 degrees F.) which should take about 10 minutes.

Serve hot.

### PUZZLES

#### FILLERS

Look carefully at this example

— P —

— P —

P — —

The answer to this puzzle will be like this:

T A P

A P T

P A T

With a filler, you've got to find the missing letters — and to help you, in each puzzle, it is the same letters that are missing from each line.

The missing letters in the above example are T and A. Now you've got the idea, see how you get on with these fillers.

1. R — —

— R —

— — R

2. S — — S

— S — S

— — S S

— — — S

3. C — — — S

S — C — —

— — C — S

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, Nov. 4

11:10 Mind Your Language

10:20 Documentary

ence from his life, he receives a good news.

8:30 Coach

A Point Of Honour

11:10 The Golden Palace

9:10 The Magical World Of Disney

The Bigger They Are

Saturday, Nov. 6

Runaways

Coach Hayden entertains Eddie Garret, a professional player, and invites him to coach in Minnesota.

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

The Golden Palace Hotel is reserved for a private party ... and Oliver is reunited with his one-time alcoholic mother.

Brand New Life — Even The Housekeepers Sing The Blues

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Playboy Frankie receives a Sicilian curse for not keeping a date; the curse proves to be "destructive" in more than one way!!

Monday, Nov. 8

Silence

9:00 Da Beat's On

8:30 Delta

10:00 News In English

A number of drug enforcement officers are implicated in a string of mysterious killings. Tessa and Dicky go after the corrupt officers.

9:30 Perspective

The Cabin and The Credit Card

10:20 From The Classics — Greta Garbo

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Thunder

Delta finds it impossible to use her credit card because it is in her divorced husband's name. She seeks a new one.

From our classic films we present the Divine Garbo, a documentary on the life of actress Greta Garbo who died in 1990 with mystery still surrounding the reasons for her early retirement and secluded life.

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Once Around

Starring: Bo Svenson and Mark Gregory

9:10 The House Of Eliott

Starring: Holly Hunter and Richard Dreyfuss

Thunder is an American Indian who defends the sanctity of his ancestors' graves on a land to be exploited by the U.S. army.

Lydia is furious about Arthur's proposal to Evie which Beatrice and Evie are having financial problems.

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Friday, Nov. 5

8:30 You Bet Your Life

10:00 News In English

8:30 Head Of The Class

Ethnic differences shake the marriage of a Lithuanian real estate salesman and an Italian American. Living in Boston, both strive to remain a family.

Sunday, Nov. 7

10:20 Chancer

Privilege

8:30 E.N.G.

Comedienne Bill Cosby presides over a game show with a grand prize of \$10,000.

Blood

Irvin is privileged to get a part-time job in an exclusive club. His classmates seem to notice the changes in Irvin's character and behaviour.

Smoke And Mirrors

9:10 Thirty Something

The Distance

Donana: The Last Resort.

A millionaire investor threatens to take over Channel 10 to convert it into a huge parking lot. Mike, Anne and the millionaire's own son stand up against him.

Suzanne is offered a job in New York City, but Gary is unhappy about the change.

8:30 Night Court

Donana is an island, off the Spanish coast, which is being threatened by environmental disasters — from air and land pollution to plant and animal extinction. Factors which have devastating effect on tourism.

9:30 Faces And Places

Ellen is unhappy too, for her relationship with Jeffrey is in jeopardy.

The Next Voice You Hear

Judge Harry was deserted by his mother when he was five. As he laments her absence

10:00 News In English

10:00 News In English

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blackheath Poisonings

10:00 News In English

10:00 News In English

## Sleepless In Seattle: Destiny — vs — accidental occurrences

**Tom Hanks — Sam**  
**Meg Ryan — Ann**  
**Ross Malinger — Jonah**  
**Producer: Gary Foster**  
**Director: Nora Ephron**  
**Story by: Jeff Arch**  
**Screenplay by: Nora Ephron/David Ward/Jeff Arch**  
**Tristar Pictures 1993**

*Sleepless In Seattle* is the name given to Sam by a radio station psychologist after his 8-year-old son, Jonah, calls in asking for a wife for his father. Jonah tells the psychologist that Sam, who has been a widower of a year and a half, refuses to meet anyone and remains sleepless throughout the Seattle nights.

Across the continent in Baltimore listening to the conversation on Christmas Eve is Ann, who has just announced her engagement to Walter. Driving to her fiancée's home she is taken in by Jonah and then by Sam, who is forced on the phone by the coaxing of the psychologist.

As Sam speaks of his wife and the magic in their relationship, Ann becomes more convinced that this person, whom she has never met, seen, or knew, is the only one for her.

Using her reporter's status with the Baltimore Sun, Ann gathers information about Sam and Jonah, and writes them a letter. She then lies to Walter and flies off to Seattle to research an article on radio talk-shows and bereavement.

Sam and Jonah remain oblivious to Ann until they receive a letter from Ann — one of the many hundreds Sam has already received. Jonah, who has taken it upon himself to read Sam's fan mail, decides Ann is the one and insists that his father meets her in New York on

Valentine's Day as requested in the letter.

Sam ignores Jonah despite his adamant pleas until Jonah decides to leave to New York to meet "his new mother" ...and there on the top of the Empire State Building he waits.

A rather whimsical romantic fantasy which serves as a reminder of the wrong choices made in life and the reasons why people struggle to get it right.

The main reason suggested in *Sleepless In Seattle* is the inexplicable concept of destiny. All the characters in one way or another deal with this concept and follow "signs" leading to their destinies.

Destiny versus accidental occurrences is questioned several times throughout the movie, and the answer is always the same ...destiny is the winner. This is most evident in Ann's plan. When she takes matters into her own hands and flies to Seattle, she sees Sam twice, but

### FILM REVIEW

does not meet him. It is only at the end when unexplainable reasons lead to Sam and Ann meeting, do they finally meet their destiny.

The excessive referral to the theme reduces the storyline to a predictable and simplistic one, but Tom Hanks' and Ross Malinger's wonderful performances added vigor and spark to the story. Their father-son relationship is portrayed well, as is their loss of a loved one.

The disappointment was with Meg Ryan's role. After seeing her as the quirky loveable Sally in *When Harry Met Sally*, her role as a lovestruck journalist in *Sleepless In Seattle* is somewhat of a letdown. The role of Ann is not the best for Ryan as it does not allow Ryan to exude the naturalism for which she has achieved acclaim.



Meg Ryan in *Sleepless In Seattle*

However, the director, Nora Ephron, in both her films *When Harry Met Sally* and *Sleepless In Seattle*, has depended heavily on the sound tracks to convey emotions and incidents. She has chosen similar types of music in both movies. So if you enjoyed *Harry*

Cormick's music and words in *When Harry Met Sally*, you will equally enjoy this movie's soundtrack.

By Najwa Najjar-Kort

## Robert Mitchum — the sleepy-eyed tough guy

By Bob Thomas  
 The Associated Press

**SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain** — That barrel-chested tough guy and master of sleepy-eyed villains was in a playful mood as he met the Spanish press.

Why did he stop writing poetry and children's stories?

"Because it contradicted my image," shot back Robert Mitchum. What is your image?

"Dissolute, brutal, untrustworthy, a general ne'er-do-well."

Does your wife believe that image?

"Obviously not. She stuck around for 53 years."

And how did Mitchum feel about playing a minor role for small money in the remake of *Cape Fear*, when he had starred in the 1962 original?

"I wouldn't call \$250,000 for one day's work small

money."

Mitchum was in Spain to receive the San Sebastian Film Festival's Donostia Award for Lifetime Achievement.

"After 130-40-50 movies, maybe I deserve this," said Mitchum, whose roles ranged from light-hearted in *The Sundowners* to terrifying in *The Night Of The Hunter* and the original *Cape Fear*.

It was a rare lapse of modesty for the long-lasting star who has a history of deprecating all things Hollywood, including himself.

Last January, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association also handed him a career achievement award.

A star since 1945, Mitchum, 76, has been ignored by the Academy Awards after his supporting-actor nomination for *The Story Of G.I. Joe*, his first important role.

Why the belated recogni-



Robert Mitchum in *War And Remembrance*

tion?

"They can't find anybody else," he said. "You get the feeling: 'Get him while he's still around. He's failing.

Get him quick."

Mitchum remained in character throughout his stay in this seaside resort in northern Spain. He grumbled about having to don a tuxedo on four occasions. He complained about lack of sleep. And while other festival visitors were viewing films from many countries, Mitchum stared blankly at CNN on a television in his hotel suite.

"Bob can't go anywhere," explained his wife, Dorothy. "Once in Rome we were told there would be no problem during the siesta. We went for a walk, and it ended in a riot. We had to take refuge in a shop until the police came."

One morning at the hotel, Mitchum came downstairs in the service elevator to have a breakfast interview in a closed dining room. The face is craggy, the eyelids annually droop one or two millimetres,

otherwise the actor's appearance remains the same as in his film noir period at RKO.

He seems willing to leave his Santa Barbara home and fly anywhere in the world to ply his trade, as long as the price is right ("I work cheap") and paid in advance. His latest film was a South African adventure with Bo Derek, which he said went directly to video.

The actor's resume includes such prestige items as *Heaven Knows*, Mr. Allison (John Huston), *Rio Grande* (Howard Hawks) and *Ryan's Daughter* (David Lean). Also numerous. Today's generation knows him primarily as the gruff but tender navy officer in the epic TV miniseries *The Winds Of War* and *War And Remembrance*.

Mitchum's early years have long been befogged in legend and mystery. With

little prodding, he reminisced about his life after leaving home at 16 in mid-depression. His journey southward was interrupted in Savannah, Ga.

"They had a cure for the homeless then — 180 days on the Chatham County Gang No. 1," he recalled. "We got 21-10 — 21 meals a week and 10 cents worth of Bull Durham golden grain."

After concluding work on the road gangs, Mitchum decided to head West and join his sister in Long Beach, Calif. Unlike other future stars, he did not travel by super chief. He rode the rails.

"Whole families would be huddled in freight cars," he recalled. "I was warned: 'Don't go into L.A., they'll put you in Lincoln Heights Jail for delousing.' I was so weary I rode right into the Santa Fe Freight Yards. "Five Mexicans were

under a water tower with three gallons of wine. They called me over, gave me some wine and told me how to get out. I thought, 'jeez, a welcoming party for the bums this is home.'"

His first meal in California came at the midnight mission on L.A.'s Skid Row ("The food? Not bad. Better than the stale bread I'd been eating."). He moved in with his sister and her navy husband, worked as a dishwasher, busboy and longshoreman and acted in a local theatre.

The defence industry was booming, and Mitchum hired on at Lockheed aircraft.

"I was working the graveyard shift, and I never slept," he said. "I'd work two nights on 15 minutes' sleep. Finally I went blind."

A Glendale doctor diagnosed his problem: "It's a symptomatic reaction. You hate your job."

His sight restored, Mitchum briefly sold shoes before accepting an agent's offer of studio interviews. He bombed at Paramount Pictures and walked across Melrose Avenue and was hired for the hopalong Cassidy westerns at \$150 a week.

"I figured I'd play the romantic lead," Mitchum remarked. "But Bill Boyd (Hoppy) took one look at me and said, 'you look mean around the eyes. You'll do for the villain.'"

"Sure," he lied. "I used to break horses on my daddy's ranch at Lubbock, Texas." After being bucked off four times, Mitchum was advised by a former rodeo champion: "Just look like you can ride." That did it.

The fledgling actor managed to work in three other movies while making the hoppies. The roles improved, and G.I. Joe started a stellar career.

## New Jungle Orchestra marries Ellington with Juju

By John Swenson  
 Reuter

**NEW YORK** — The New Jungle Orchestra may appear to be an odd choice to accompany a European monarch on trips abroad, but that perception quickly evaporates once the band starts playing.

It incorporates a wild mix of world music styles into a unique framework that marries the orchestrations of the Duke Ellington Band of the 1920s with the incandescent rhythms of West African Juju music.

The nine-member jazz band, currently on a tour of the Americas which takes them from the United States through Mexico and Argentina, is the first non-classical ensemble to be

named Denmark's official musical representative.

"It was a really big shock to be selected," guitarist and co-leader Pierre Dorge told Reuters in a recent interview, "particularly because the kind of jazz we play is not the 'clean' style."

"It was the decision of the minister of culture and it was strange because she was from the Conservative Party."

Dorge and keyboardist Irene Becker together lead the ensemble that accompanies Denmark's Queen Margrethe II on visits overseas.

The growing international reputation of the New Jungle Orchestra, or NJO, undoubtedly contributed to this landmark decision. The band's releases consistently

receive the highest ratings in international jazz publications.

In his book *A Night In Tunisia*, jazz critic Norman Weinstein called the NJO "one of Europe's most sophisticated jazz bands, with a penchant for transforming various world music elements, particularly those from West Africa and the Middle East."

Dorge, 47, played with a wide range of Danish jazz and rock groups before forming the NJO in 1980, the same year he and Becker studied African rhythms at Karl Berger's Creative Music Foundation in Woodstock, New York — site of the famous 1969 rock festival.

"I didn't even bring a guitar with me," said

Dorge. "In Woodstock I was concentrating on learning African polyrhythms, learning percussion, playing two against three and three against four, especially the West African rhythms."

Under the tutelage of Jali Foday Musa Suso, a master of the 21-string kora played by West African griots (tribal tellers of legends), Dorge experienced a musical revelation that formed the basis of his conception for the NJO.

"Suddenly I could see the whole history of jazz," said Dorge.

Dorge used these ideas to develop a style in which profound eclecticism is kept in tight focus by the vision of the Ghanaian rhythms at the heart of the arrange-

ments. Eerily recast pieces of Ellingtonia evolve from moments of surreal precision to shimmering mirages of African landscape.

On his latest recording, *Karawane*, Dorge uses this technique to convert one of the most overplayed Ellington pieces in history, *Cavavav*, into the climactic theme in a suite of cinematic scope.

Dorge's unpredictable musical turns and a penchant for dry wit have led many Danish jazz fans to view him as something of a musical practical joker, yet much of what his native audience sees as outrageousness is merely Dorge's deadpan approach to presenting new ideas.

## Puppets pirouette in ancient Japan ritual

By Roger Crabb  
 Reuter

**TAKAYAMA, Japan** — For a man who must impose order on a chaotic tangle of silken spaghetti, puppet master Yoshisato Ito is calmness itself.

Seated on a stool in an old teahouse in Takayama, central Japan, Ito patiently takes his disciples — four adults and three pre-teen boys — through a centuries-old marionette routine intimately linked to Japan's ancient rice culture.

Within days, they will be paraded through this picturesque little town, concealed on one of the 11 ornate floats used in the annual autumn festival to thank the Shinto gods for the harvest.

All that thousands of

street spectators will see is the plump, jolly figure of the god of fortune, pirouetting in stately fashion at the prow of the float while two smaller puppets perform complicated tricks on a trapeze.

Putting the marionettes through their time-hallowed performance — the 200-year-old float is believed to have been copied from an even earlier model — takes astonishing dexterity in manipulating their 36 silken strings.

Slowly, after one or two false starts, the God — his white figure clothed in rich brocades — reaches the end of his catwalk and stands bowing benevolently to left and right as the first of the acrobats comes flying towards him.

Within minutes, he is seated on the God's shoulder and his fellow is making his way to join him.

Ito, 51, counsels the boys in a quiet voice, his eyes rarely leaving the strings. Concentration is all-important.

If he is worried about their competence, he gives no sign of it.

"Occasionally the strings break in damp weather," he confides to a visitor. "Once we broke five strings in one practice."

For most of the year, Ito concentrates on running a nearby futon mattress shop. But as the autumn "Matsuri" (festival) approaches, his thoughts turn to the puppet routine he has performed row for 35 years.

## Foreign cosmetics hypnotise timid Beijing ladies

By Mark O'Neill  
 Reuter

**BEIJING** — It's a Saturday afternoon in one of Beijing's middle-class shopping centres and the staff in the cosmetics department are run off their feet.

A video praises an American face cream, women in crisp yellow uniforms paint the eyes of their clients and foreign shampoos and lotions disappear off the shelves.

The foreign cosmetics revolution has hit stuffy Beijing.

"In the 1960s and 1970s it was considered bourgeois and anti-revolutionary to

use cosmetics," explained Wang Mei, a woman in her thirties buying eye make-up. "Now, in the hotel where I work, we have to wear them. If you do not, your bonus is cut."

"I buy the cheapest brands, locally made," said a 20-year-old, munching French fries with her boyfriend in the McDonalds next to the centre.

"That is because I work in a factory. If you work in a hotel, a shop or a restaurant, you should buy brands made by joint ventures that are a bit more expensive. If you are very rich, you buy the stuff that is directly imported," she said.

The tall, slender beauties of Beijing concede nothing to their sisters in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei or Singapore in natural good looks but were long handicapped by living in the capital of a puritan, proletarian Communist Party.

Last year two up-market shopping malls opened, one of them a joint venture with a Japanese firm, selling imported perfume at up to 3,000 yuan (\$526) and face cream up to 1,000 yuan (\$192).

This sets new standards for Beijing women to match.

The main beneficiaries have been the French,

Japanese, British and American firms that set up joint ventures in China and sell their soap, perfume, shampoos, creams and lotions to the domestic market, at prices slightly higher than domestic brands.

With their superior packaging, advertising, quality and brand image, they are more than a match for domestic producers who are often handicapped by old machinery, shortages of capital, poor research and rising costs of raw materials.

Official figures show sales of foreign soap in China are increasing at rates of 30 per cent a year.

The People's Daily reported this month that the authorities had seized and destroyed 6,600 cases of fake Hazeline Snow British toilet soap worth 1.5 million yuan (\$263,000).

They discovered during a five-month investigation that more than 80 firms nationwide were involved in the racket.

Local brands are also handicapped by the widespread sale of fake and even harmful cosmetics. A law governing the advertising of such products came into effect only on Oct. 1 this year.

The consumer news, the mouthpiece of China's

Light Industry Ministry, lamented what it called the worship of foreign brands and the automatic assumption that they were better than Chinese ones, causing them to win a rising share of the market.

"Is the moon abroad more round than the moon in China?" it asked sardonically, commenting that Beijing shoppers could reel off lists of foreign brand names but not a single Chinese one.

"Our reliance on foreign goods is hard for the foreigners to imagine," it said.

"They use this trust and good name to take our money and, as they do it,

they mock and laugh at us."

Nowhere is this felt stronger than on the first floor of the Sino-Japanese joint venture store selling Christian Dior, Givenchy and other brands straight off the plane from Paris, with import duties of 100 to 300 per cent.

Plump Beijing housewives in padded blue pantsuits, who have been bypassed by the cosmetics revolution, look in astonishment at the elegant counter displays and the prices, in many cases more than they earn in three months.

"Here it is high-class products and high-class ser-

vice," sniffs one of the sales ladies, impeccably made up and looking as if she has just stepped out of one of their advertisements. "We do not quarrel with customers as they do in other stores."

"What is the big deal about foreign cosmetics?" asked one student in her twenties. "We were there first."

"You remember Qin Shihuang, emperor of China 2200 years ago? He had dozens of concubines who made themselves up with face powder. They say that, when they took their morning wash, the rivers ran white with their powder."



# Australia found perfect for study of drink-induced brain damage

By Peter James  
Spielmann

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — The U.S. government wants to find out just how many drinks a day it takes to damage a brain, and it has found the perfect place to do the research — Australia.

"For some reason that nobody has ever satisfactorily explained, Australia has a very high level of brain damage due to alcohol," said Dr. Alex Wodack, a member of the

Royal Australian College of Physicians' working group on alcohol and health.

Australian drinkers are also less likely than Americans to abuse other drugs, making them ideal for the new three-year University of Sydney study on alcohol-induced brain damage commissioned by the U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH).

"Claims are being made about how many drinks a day are safe before damage

is likely to occur — two for women and four for men, for instance — but this is not based on neuropathological analysis. Our research aims to provide this basis for such advice," said Clive Harper, a professor of neuropathology at the University of Sydney, said Wednesday.

"We probably have the highest incidence in the world of Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome, which results in brain shrinkage as a result of alcoholism," Prof. Harper said.

Aussies aren't the world's heaviest drinkers — they rank about 12th in the world — but they are the top English-speaking country in per capita consumption, another factor that attracted the U.S. funding. The average Australian's consumption of booze has lessened in recent years.

France heads the list, followed by Portugal, Luxembourg, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Denmark. The United

States is 19th.

Backed by an Australian dollars 750,000 (\$500,000) NIH grant, the University of Sydney's Pathology Department will compare autopsy samples of brain tissue from alcoholics with control groups of teetotalers and moderate drinkers.

Preparation for the study has been underway for months.

The alcoholics studied will be free of signs of liver damage or Vitamin B1 deficiency, which has been shown to cause brain dam-

age in other studies. The new research intends to focus on damage caused by alcohol alone.

Up to 60 brains will be dissected and studied, which Prof. Harper said would be enough to discover the level at which alcohol begins causing damage.

The individuals studied tend to be businessmen, engineers, pilots, and other people who are alcoholics but lead fairly normal, successful lives. Their level of drinking is corroborated by reports from family mem-

bers. Liquor has been interwoven into Australian history since the first landing of convicts and their wardens in 1788.

Australian social life revolves around pubs.

Liquor was the first means of exchange in the early colony, rather than gold or silver. Workers were paid in liquor. Goods were bought with it. The first hospitals and churches were built with funds raised from liquor sales.

Several rebellions have been sparked by liquor, including a 1916 rampage by thousands of drunken soldiers who looted saloons, smashed city windows, broke up marketplaces and terrorised all they met.

That led the city to order pubs closed at 6 p.m., a law not repealed until 1955. The early close of pubs created the "six o'clock swill," a rush of workingmen into pubs to chug down as much booze as they could in the last hour before final call.

## Dutch TV game show is a matter of life and death

By Andrew Kelly  
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Imagine a television game show in which a studio audience must decide which of two

patients should receive life-saving medical treatment.

Too controversial to screen? Not in the Netherlands where a series called A Matter Of Life And Death has been confronting

viewers with exactly this type of dilemma.

Originally intended to stimulate debate on how to control health spending, the series has triggered criticism of its unorthodox approach

to the issue.

"This is a revolting programme... improper and almost immoral," said Fons Dekkers of the Dutch Patients' Federation.

In one recent episode the

studio audience had to choose between two cancer patients who both wanted treatment with an expensive new drug which could prolong their lives.

Viewers were reminded several times that doctors take the real decisions about the patients who volunteer to take part.

But that has not dampened criticism of the series which was partially financed by the Ministry of Health.

"You shouldn't treat such serious matters in a caricature manner," said Theo Berkestijn of the Dutch Medical Association.

Critics say the series has done more harm than good by misrepresenting the complex issue of how best to allocate finite health care resources as a simple choice between two patients.

"I don't doubt their good intentions, but form and content of the programme are very unfortunate," said Mr. Berkestijn.

Annelies Van Den

Langenberg, 45, explained in one recent episode that she had originally been treated for cancer of the ovaries but that the disease had then spread to other organs.

Conventional chemotherapy had helped at first but was no longer effective, she said.

The newly registered drug on which she is pinning her hopes costs 30,000 guilders (\$16,280) for a course of 10 injections.

"My husband and family have said we'll raise the money somehow, even if it means selling the house," she says.

Marianne Van De Ven, 56, was successfully treated for breast cancer but years later doctors diagnosed cancer in her liver and bones. Chemotherapy has since helped to stabilise her condition.

"I won't really grow old with this, but you always hope that a drug will be found that can prolong your life," she says when asked by presenter Violet Falken-

burg about her life expectancy.

After a brief review of the patients' personal details and condition, Ms. Falkenberg announces that it is time to vote.

An electronic score board flashes up the result: 38 votes for Van Den Langenberg and eight for Van De Ven.

The camera turns to the contestants. Van Den Langenberg is impassive but Van De Ven looks lightly amused as Ms. Falkenberg asks members of the audience to explain how they voted.

"The chemotherapy is working for Mrs. Van De Ven... but this could be the last chance for Mrs. Van Langenberg," says a young woman who voted for Van Langenberg.

A man in his 40s says he didn't vote: "You can't make a choice here. These two people have the same illness, they can't do anything about it, they just have to be helped," he says.

The Ministry of Health decided to co-finance the six-part series in order to promote public debate about how to keep the costs of the Dutch health care system under control.

"We hope it leads to discussion. Our goal was to make people think about what health care costs, how important it is and where choices must be made," said spokeswoman Mariette Utermark.

Ms. Utermark said it was regrettable that reaction to the programme had centred on its provocative format rather than on the key issue of how to safeguard affordable health care.

Nevertheless, it had been a partial success, she said, referring to one episode in which two patients admitted they had no idea how much their regular physiotherapy treatment cost.

"The programme has made some people think: Wow does a hip operation cost so much?" she said.

## Forget the myths, chocolate is good for you — scientist

By Antarikawan Jusuf  
Agence France Presse

JAKARTA — The belief that "something that tastes so good just can't be good for you" is crumbling under the weight of new studies on the nutritional value of chocolate, a scientist has said.

"Chocolate is not a substitute for breakfast, lunch or dinner, but as part of a balanced diet, chocolate eaten in moderation is good food and good for you," Charles Duncan, chairman of the Scientific Committee of the American Cocoa Research Institute (ACRI) told a cocoa conference in Bali last week.

The scientific committee of the ACRI, an offshoot of

the Chocolate Manufacturers Association of the United States, comprises working groups on biotechnology, cocoa research, cocoa processing and evaluation, health and safety.

The first "myth," Mr. Duncan said, was that chocolate was high in caffeine, which can cause children to become hyperactive.

He said studies showed that symptoms such as excitation and sleep disturbance occurred only after ingesting levels of caffeine in the 450-900 milligramme range, equivalent to several cups of strong coffee.

However a 1.5 ounce (42 gram) milk chocolate bar contains only about 10

milligrams of caffeine," he said, adding that a child would have to eat about 50 chocolate bars to suffer over-stimulation.

Mr. Duncan also attacked the belief that chocolate aggravates acne.

Citing studies conducted by the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Missouri, Mr. Duncan said chocolate showed no significant changes to acne conditions.

Even the link between chocolate and tooth decay is spurious, according to Mr. Duncan.

He said the results of ACRI-supported research demonstrated that the higher the concentration of chocolate the less acid was produced and the less de-

mineralisation of tooth enamel occurred.

He said a study had also been conducted to evaluate the effect of cocoa consumption on reproductive capacity.

"Cocoa powder was fed to rats at levels as high as five per cent of the diet without any effect on the reproductive capacity under the conditions of a standard three-generation evaluation study," he said.

Mr. Duncan added: "The once prevalent belief (that) 'something that tastes so good just can't be good for you' has given way to a more balanced picture of chocolate and cocoa products and their relationship to health and nutrition."

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

TUTTI-FRUTTI  
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS

- 1 Checks
- 2 At — Milan
- 3 A Johnson
- 4 Luster
- 5 Hawaiian city
- 6 American
- 7 Grand prize
- 8 Grapo jacket
- 9 Address City
- 10 Pictorial offering
- 11 Battles
- 12 Composer of "The Consul"
- 13 With the blue ribbons
- 14 Sovereign ruler
- 15 Confound
- 16 Indy winner
- 17 Bay window
- 18 In the flesh

- 37 Heavy men, abbr.
- 38 Talk to the ramp
- 39 Numero uno
- 40 Lyrical
- 41 Without pity
- 42 Tarsus
- 43 Performer of "Cheese"
- 44 Cedar Rapids
- 45 Tostitos
- 46 Checkbook play
- 47 What an RV
- 48 Capri
- 49 Life policy
- 50 Col and Sgt.
- 51 Exotics

- 61 Lithuanian
- 62 Feet rapturous
- 63 Vienna's land
- 64 Fabled seas, a.p.
- 65 Unskilled laborer
- 66 Some trees
- 67 Flamingo about
- 68 White-flowered
- 69 Chicken struts
- 70 Glee
- 71 Take charge
- 72 Arid
- 73 Store
- 74 The Lucy
- 75 Syracuse athletes
- 76 Ave
- 77 Inlets
- 78 Flat-bottomed boats

95 O's Tin Man

- 96 Hold abundantly
- 97 Jupiter or
- 98 Weathercock
- 99 Alameda's place
- 100 Completely absorbed
- 101 New York City
- 102 Overcast
- 103 Singing
- 104 Authorised by law
- 105 Musical
- 106 Bird food
- 107 Inflated
- 108 Related
- 109 maternally
- 110 Blueprints
- 111 Catch sight of

DOWN

- 1 "That has got" (Westcott)
- 2 English river
- 3 Hopeful
- 4 encounters
- 5 Star Trek
- 6 City in Colombia
- 7 Quizzes
- 8 Fort or Virginia
- 9 River to the Seine
- 10 Deborah of "Oweny"
- 11 New ship
- 12 Business abbr.
- 13 Band of soldiers
- 14 Sources of public attention
- 15 Lopped handle
- 16 Fish
- 17 Reamer

- 24 — nova (dance)
- 25 Social reformer
- 26 Crisis or crust
- 27 Galleon
- 28 Honda city
- 29 Carve like
- 30 Hunter of myth
- 31 Wood
- 32 Egyptian crosses
- 33 One of the Feds
- 34 Cornice bracket
- 35 Indians of Guinevere
- 36 Portage
- 37 Money earned here
- 38 Extract primates
- 39 Band of soldiers
- 40 Sources of public attention
- 41 Lopped handle
- 42 Fish
- 43 Reamer

- 53 One — (man-to-man)
- 54 Entrances
- 55 In the preceding
- 56 Crisis or crust
- 57 A ruler abbr.
- 58 Medical plant
- 59 Carve like
- 60 Flaxen cloth
- 61 Arias
- 62 Actress
- 63 Verducci
- 64 The Lucy
- 65 Syracuse athletes
- 66 Ave
- 67 Inlets
- 68 Flat-bottomed boats

By Aurore Thierry

A huge study of sexual behaviour has been carried out by the public authorities, questioning more than 20,000 adults. The purpose of this very serious survey is to improve AIDS prevention policies.

PARIS — When did you make love for the first time? At the age of 17 for boys and 18 for girls. This age has become stable over the last twenty years or so. How many times do you have intercourse in a month? 8, say men. 7, say women, with the maximum being situated between the ages of 25 and 44.

How many partners do people have in a lifetime? Between 12 and 14 for men, and between 3 and 5 for women. Unfaithfulness in couples which have been together for more than a year appears to be a male (5 per cent) speciality rather than a female one (2 per cent).

To improve prevention

This is some of the information drawn from a big survey on "the sexual behaviour of the French", the results of which were recently published by "Documentation Française." This study was carried out by the National Agency for Research on AIDS so as to draw up strategies for preventing the disease more effectively and establish forecast models of its development.

The questions asked concerned both sexual practices and attitudes to the risk of transmission. In addition to self-reporting, which is very widely practised (90 per cent of men and 42 per cent of women), there has been an increase in oral-genital sexual relations, but it is true that people speak about them more easily now.

Homosexuality is more delicate to assess and, according to researchers, it was under-declared. It appears to concern 4 per cent of men and 2.6 per cent of women and more in the Paris area and among 35-50



According to a French research on AIDS, those below 20 years of age have better awareness of the risk of transmission of the disease than their seniors

Impressive scientific work

Twenty years after the famous Simon report on the sexuality of the French, which was based on 2,600 people and was carried out at a time when the idea was to promote contraception, this survey is a first in its scale and wealth of information. It cost 13 million francs and mobilised 110 investigators for 6 months as well as several dozen academics and researchers (epidemiologists, demographers, sociologists and psychologists) from the biggest public organisations: The National Institute for Health and Medical Re-

search (INSERM), the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED).

The fact that only 3 per cent of those interviewed interrupted the conversation proves the interest and seriousness of the study. The wealth of information has not yet all been used, particularly the psychosociological factors of the behaviours recorded. Two other sections of this survey are being prepared on 15-18-year-olds and on adults in French Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe — L'Actualité En France.

## SOLUTIONS

### FILLERS

1. R A T  
A R T  
T A R
2. S A P S  
A S P S  
P A S S  
S P A S
3. C A R E S  
S C A R E  
R A C E



## Zarqa will vote in those who invested time and money in its development

(Continued from page 1)

is weakened by the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process which has effectively deprived him of support by the IAF.

Observers believe that Fouad Khalafat, who won the elections in Tafleh in 1989 on the Muslim Brotherhood ticket, will not fare well in his bid for reelection as an independent Islamist in Zarqa. Mr. Khalafat fell from grace with the Brotherhood due to his "pro-Saudi" position on the Gulf crisis and war and will not receive any help from the IAF. He does not have a strong tribal base because, according to Dr. Werr, most of the Zarqa residents whose roots are in the southern parts of the Kingdom have registered in their hometowns.

"I welcome you to my house, the house of my tribe," IAF candidate Bassam Al Omoush told nearly 1,500 supporters during a rally Monday, in an appeal for

the support of his large Bani Hassan tribe.

But the IAF will not win many of the tribal vote in Zarqa because its candidate's clan, the Omoush, is based in Mafraq and because the Bani Hassan vote will be split among nine competitors.

The Bani Hassan tribe in the governorate consists of three main clans: the Zawahreh, the Khalaleh and the Ghweiri, in addition to the Ziuds who live in the outskirts of the city. The Khalalehs are fielding one candidate, the Zawahrehs three, the Ghweiris two and the Ziuds only one. The Omoush are fielding two candidates, Bassam, who is counting on the IAF votes, and the other, Saleh Al Ghalab, who enjoys the support of Fateh sympathisers.

Observers therefore say that only Bani Hassan candidates who can win votes from outside the tribe stand a real chance in the elections.

A former deputy and a mayor of Zarqa for four years, Salameh Ghweiri

appears to be the strongest contender among the Bani Hassan candidates.

Mr. Ghweiri, a member of the centrist Al Mustakbal Party who is contesting the elections as an independent, says he expects support from the city's business community and voters who "tried him as both a deputy and mayor of the city." Observers believe that Mr. Ghweiri will lose a good percentage of the clan's vote to his challenger, Sheikh Nouman Ghweiri, but will be able to compensate for the loss through winning votes from other communities in the city.

In addition to competing for the Bani Hassan vote with eight candidates, Mr. Ghalab, who is a columnist in Al Dustour Arabic daily, will have to share the Fateh vote with other three candidates who are among 32 Jordanians of Palestinian origin and at least three parties affiliated with Palestinian factions that are vying for the Palestinian vote.

While the East Jordanian vote is split among tribal candidates, observers say the Palestinian vote in Zarqa is divided along family and hometown affiliations. Accordingly, the voting pattern among Jordanian Palestinians will not be harmonious, with the people of the West Bank town of Hejje, for instance, split among two candidates, Toubas among three, Bounn

(only) one, and Akabra (also) one.

The autonomy accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is an election issue that candidates appealing to the Palestinian vote are raising and observers believe will be an important factor in winning the Palestinian vote.

While candidates seeking the votes of Fateh supporters are trying to attract voters

who favour the accord, Tareq Al Hejjawi, a candidate of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, which was set up by former activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is seeking the support of what his spokesman called "nationalist forces" opposed to the accord.

Mr. Hikmat, who is a former minister of information and culture, believes that even though there is a qualified support for the agreement among Palestinians, the politically uncommitted or "floated" voters among them will elect candidates who reject it.

"When people go to the ballot box, their nationalistic feelings which developed over the years will direct them to vote for candidates who reject the agreement," said Mr. Hikmat.

Dr. Hejjawi, who is competing for the votes of people of his hometown of Hejje with Misbah Al Hejjawi, who enjoys the support of Fateh sympathisers, has gone into coalition with former Deputy Haddadin of the Jordan People's Democratic Party in an attempt to project a unified leftist front.

Observers, however, believe the coalition will not help Mr. Haddadin in his bid for the Christian seat.

Mr. Haddadin, whose party is dominated by sympathisers of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), won the 1989 elections with support from Jordanian-Palestinian voters who could vote for six candidates under the old bloc voting system.

Observers say that the new electoral rules will deny Mr. Haddadin many of the second or third votes he had last time and his position will be further weakened by the split within his party.

Dr. Werr said that Mr. Haddadin does not have the support of the rank and file of his party even though he is backed by its leadership. His biggest challenge for the politically committed vote comes from Adeb Hawatmeh, brother of DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh, according to observers.

Dr. Werr and Mr. Hikmat say the strongest candidate among the five competitors for

the Christian seat is Tayseer Ammari, who has the support of both the Christians and Muslims of Zarqa residents who come from the north of the Kingdom, where he also comes from.

Dr. Werr said Dr. Ammari will win the majority of the 3,500 registered Christian voters who come from the north as well as the majority of the 5,500 registered Muslim voters who are originally from the north and who had unanimously supported him.

While Anwar Habaibeh, a gynaecologist, has a strong Christian base, he will have to share the Salti vote with contender Hawatmeh and two other candidates from Zarqa who are originally from Salti. "That leaves Dr. Ammari as the favourite Christian candidate," said Dr. Werr.

The Circassian-Chechen candidate will also be determined by votes from outside the community, observers say.

The seat is being contested by three candidates, former deputy Jammoo, Sharaf Al Deen Ala' Al Deen and Adel Bolad. Observers expect the competition to be between Sheikh Jammoo and Mr. Ala' Al Deen who, they say, enjoys more support among the Chechens, whose population count is no more than a few thousand but who nevertheless constitute an important minority in the city, being one of the first people to reside in contemporary Zarqa.

Mr. Hikmat said Sheikh Jammoo, who has been long active on the public scene in the city, will tap the good relations he has built over the years with voters outside the Chechen community as well as the non-politicised Muslim vote. Sheikh Jammoo had served as member of successive parliaments since the early sixties.

Dr. Werr believes Sheikh Jammoo is the most likely winner of the race, especially after Ahmad Fakher, a leftist Circassian physician, reversed his earlier decision to enter the race. Dr. Fakher ran in the 1989 contest and won 7,272 votes compared to Sheikh Jammoo's 14,181 or 24.39 per cent of the vote.

Despite the large number of competitors in the race for the governorate's six seats, observers believe there will be a low

turnout as was the case in 1989. They attribute such voter apathy to the failure of the previous deputies to push harder for improving the quality of life in the city, the electoral changes, the uncertainty about holding the election following the signing of the PLO-Israel accord and the lack of appeal of the majority of the candidates.

Figures available until noon yesterday put the number of voters who have collected their voting cards at 127,320 voters, 58,636 of whom are women.

Dr. Werr and Mr. Hikmat expect a maximum of 50 per cent turnout. In 1989, there were 116,672 registered voters of whom 58,153 cast their votes.

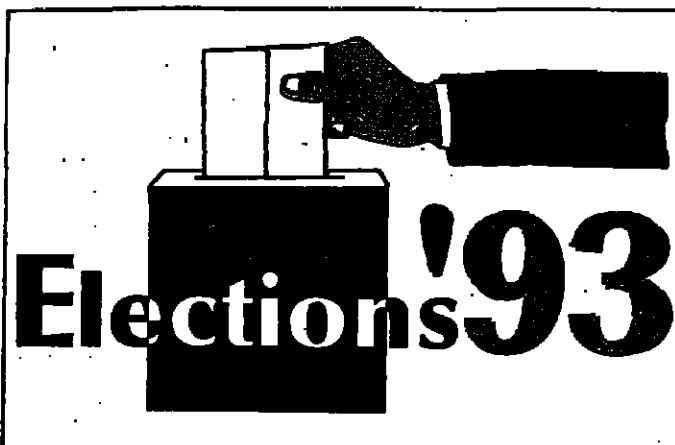
Candidates are trying to encourage more people to vote by focusing on issues that relate to their direct needs. "People are more concerned with services," said Mr. Gweiri.

Even the IAF is aware of that and its candidates divided the issues they addressed in a public rally they held on Monday among Islamic ideology, the Palestinian issue and the needs of the city.

"All residents of the city have been done great injustice," Dr. Omoush told the rally in reference to the low level of support the governorate receives from the government and the under-representation of the city in the Lower House of Parliament.

According to the observers who spoke to the Jordan Times, Zarqa will have two main surprises when the results of the elections are known.

First, Bassam Haddadin who won 14,698 votes or 25.77 per cent of the vote in 1989 will come third in the race for the Christian seat, the winner being Dr. Ammari and the runner-up Mr. Hawatmeh. Second, Nadia Boushnaq, the only woman candidate in Zarqa, who won 2,602 votes or 4.37 per cent of the vote in 1989, will not win her bid for election but will do better than many of her male competitors in this industrial city right on the edge of the desert. With a long history of public service in the city's voluntary societies and charitable organisations, Mrs. Boushnaq has a large reservoir of support which she hopes to mobilise on Nov. 8.



## Blend of party and tribal support is the key in Irbid

(Continued from page 1)

ence of mostly veiled women and bearded men.

In order to enhance the chances of its four candidates, the front has divided Irbid voters into what it describes as "working groups." Each group is supposed to cast its vote in favour of a predetermined IAF candidate.

Contrary to expectations that the one-person, one-vote formula would enhance tribalism and hurt Islamists and independents, the change, candidates and voters believe, has created splits between and within the major tribes, who in most cases are related to each other by marriage or lineage but who failed to agree on one nominee.

The new formula prevents candidates from forming alliances and barter votes as was the case in 1989 when a voter was able to cast a ballot for as many as candidates as there are seats in the district.

"We are even unable to visit each other, because it would be taken as an offence as if we are defying the other families, most of whom have candidates running against ours," said Dirar Batayneh, a campaign coordinator for Dr. Aref Batayneh, a member of the 15,000-strong Batayneh tribe and a former minister of health.

Almost every candidate has a story to tell of a relative running against him, syphoning off votes from the candidate the family has chosen. By and large, the only party that carries any weight in Irbid is the IAF. Leftists and pan-Arabists hardly carry any weight in this governorate of 600,000 residents.

The Tal family, with 1,350 registered voters, was one of the few families which reached a consensus and chose only one candidate to represent it in the elections. "All of the family, regardless of their political leanings, with the exception of a few, are going to vote for me," said Mr. Tal, a first-time runner.

Abdul Rahim 'Ekour, who in 1989 secured 22,920 votes, has only one opponent from his family, journalist Salameh 'Ekour, just like Kofahi, who is competing against a cousin, Jamal Kofahi.

Three Omaris — Kayed, Talal and Majed — are competing for the Omari votes, but observers say that like in the case of Kofahi, they do not stand strong chances. Talal is leader of a licensed leftist political party, but he is not running as a member of that group in these elections.

Mohammad Alwanah, an independent Islamist who in 1989 came in fifth with 14,459 votes and during his term also served as minister of agriculture, is also running again this year, but his presence, according to observers, is not very visible.

Yousef Kasawneh, who in 1989 won 19,064 votes when he ran on the Brotherhood ticket, is running again this year allegedly under the Brotherhood's banner. This time around, the Brotherhood did not nominate any on its own ticket and senior members in the movement confirm that Dr. Kasawneh "resigned" and is no longer an active member.

Preliminary elections among the Batayneh family chose Dr. Aref, the former minister, to represent their

4,600 eligible voters. Despite the family consensus, another Batayneh, Dr. Mahmud, also chose to run. According to the supporters of Dr. Aref, Mahmud is an expatriate residing in Germany who came to Jordan only a month before the elections and is expected to return as soon as the polls are finished as he did in 1989.

Dr. Aref Batayneh is an example of a candidate who is affiliated to a large family and is a former government official and senior army officer. He had been director of the army's Royal Medical Services before he was appointed minister. "Both are important elements which will work in his favour and his achievements in the near past will encourage voters to choose him as their representative," said a member of his campaign team.

Saleh Irsheidat, former minister of youth, is yet another example of a member of a prominent family who held public office and is running for candidacy, with a special emphasis on the young electorate ("the candidate of the youth," his slogan says).

Although he never lived in Irbid, people think highly of him, mainly because of his father, Shafiq Irsheidat, a founding member of the National Socialist Party, who had held several ministerial posts, especially in the cabinet of Suleiman Nabulsi.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, who in 1989 won a seat with 11,178 votes, is again a likely winner in the polls. A former minister of public works and Amman mayor, Mr. Rawabdeh, popular in both Irbid and elsewhere for his quick wit and acidic remarks, is running on the merits of his public service rather than the size of his family (which many Irbidis put at no more than 100 members).

Mr. Rawabdeh, a founding member and leader of the Yakatha (Awakening) Party, is not running on his party's slate.

Speaking to the Jordan Times in his diwan in his hometown, Sareeh, a village on the outskirts of Irbid, Mr. Rawabdeh said: "There is only one big party (the IAF). All the other political parties need at least 10 years to establish themselves in the society in order to be called parties."

Contrary to expectations that the election campaign would turn into a referendum over the peace process, especially the "Gaza-Jericho first" accord and the Jordan-Israel peace agenda, voters are focused less on politics and more on domestic services.

"For Jordanians and Palestinians of Palestinian origin alike, the peace process comes way down the list," said Mr. Rawabdeh, "except that the latter ask more about future Palestinian relations with Jordan and the possibility of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation or federation."

Many Irbid voters resent the lack of services Irbid receives as compared to southern regions where many of Jordan's main tribes come from. They are concerned about unemployment, (which is 37 per cent of the workforce in the governorate), education and equal opportunities in addressing these needs.

Many of the candidates agree that voters are now being more pragmatic and realistic in what to expect from parliament and from their future deputies.

"Both candidates and voters have matured and are more aware of their role and capabilities," said Mr. Rawabdeh. "Voters now want deputies capable of addressing the day-to-day needs of their city."

"Whoever says he is going to liberate Palestine is lying," said a voter in the Irbid refugee camp, which has 10,000 registered voters. "We know that our deputy cannot produce miracles but we want him to be interested in our needs and not only visit the camp a month before the elections," said Sheikh Habboush, a camp elder.

"Although the (Palestinian) candidates are more actively involved than in 1989, the Islamic trend is pretty dominant and the IAF has a much stronger presence in the camp," said Sheikh Habboush, who came to Jordan after the 1948 war.

The IAF candidates are reportedly socially active in the camps and elsewhere. "They attend all our happy and sad occasions and they keep in touch with the people," he said.

According to Sheikh Habboush, although 11 Jordanians of Palestinian origin are running as candidates, two figure high among the voters: Saleh Sha'watah, a former Fateh member, and Musleh Azzeh, an independent.

Hashem Gharybeh, an independent leftist candidate, who also hails from a large family, said the situation of the leftists in general "is bad." Other candidates with leftist leanings include Ahmad Jaradat, Husni Shiyab (a former deputy), Abdul Khaleq Shtat, Mazen Abu Baker, Taha Ababneh, Issam Sa'adi, Fahmi Abedi and Jameel Nimri.

"The political leanings of the leftist candidates is the element least expected to affect the choice of the voters," said Mr. Gharybeh.

As far as the Christian seat is concerned, four candidates

are contesting it; Jamil Nimri, Nader Abu Sha'ar, Marwan Andrawes and Fadallah Haddad.

The decision by Deeb Marji, the deputy who had occupied the seat in the 11th Parliament, not to seek reelection and (due to differences he has with his own leftist party, as well as his opposition to the change in the Election Law) has left the race to be won by one of the two strongest candidates, Mr. Nimri and Dr. Abu Sha'ar, who belong to the same family, but the race is too close to call.

Mr. Nimri, who is the editor of Al Ahali weekly newspaper, mouthpiece of the leftist Hashd party, claims the support of both the Nimris (which is one of the biggest Christian families in the north) and Dr. Marji, who has since gone back to teaching at Yarmouk University, Dr. Abu Sha'ar, a long-time Irbid surgeon, without ideological or political background, also claims the support of both Dr. Marji and his family.

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# U.N. study: Women, children most exploited workers in Asia's cities

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Women and children are the most exploited workers in Asia's cities, both in industrialising and low-income countries, a United Nations study says.

The common traits of women and children's work, the study says, "are to be found neither in the sector, occupation, size of firm or income of its owner, but rather in extreme exploitation marked by long hours and harsh working conditions, physical and sexual abuse and critical poverty."

The report on the critical problems of Asia's cities was presented at a meeting this week organised by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

At Tuesday's conclusion, 36 countries signed a declaration of general guidelines on easing these problems, including a recommendation that they enhance urban productivity by

removing regulatory constraints on efficient use of land, labour and financial markets.

Significant numbers of working children are found in both the highest and lowest income nations, the study says.

"Throughout Asia, urban children under age 15 are found in debilitating forms of work that not only keep them in poverty, but are hazardous to life," it says.

In most countries, it adds, they provide significant portions of labour in activities such as scavenging, vending, textile and garment production and, increasingly, prostitution.

Children in India start working in industrial activities at ages as young as five, and it is estimated that a fourth of the national labour force consists of children under 14, the study says.

It says most never learn to read and write, are treated as bonded rather than salaried workers, and get extremely

low pay for demanding work including brick-laying at construction sites.

In India and elsewhere, the study says, women are among the most vulnerable workers because many are self-employed or do work at home, such as processing raw materials delivered to them by middlemen.

In Pakistan, women are concentrated in home-based work partly because of social and religious custom that limits their activities outside the home. They have no access to credit, materials, markets, technology and information that could increase their productivity.

In Asia, economic growth has rapidly increased the number of women who do semi-skilled jobs for wages. Women comprise 80 per cent or more of the work force in such export-oriented industries as textiles and semiconductor assembly operations in Asia, the study says.

# Tunisia cuts olive oil producer prices

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia cut olive oil producer prices by up to 24 per cent and said Wednesday it expected the new season's production to be 48 per cent higher than last year.

The government says the cuts are due to tumbling international market prices. Tunisia is the world's second largest exporter of olive oil and the fourth producer.

The producer price for low grade oil will be 1,055 dinars (\$1,055) a tonne compared with 1,390 (\$1,390) last year, a cabinet statement said.

For extra fine oil, the new price is 1,390 dinars (\$1,390) compared with 1,750 (\$1,750) last year.

Ali Ouled Ali, head of the agriculture ministry's olive growing department, told Reuters that production in the 1993/1994 season starting this month would rise to 200,000 tonnes from 135,000 tonnes last year.

"Reduction of producer prices is caused by abundant production while prices on the international market are falling down," Mr. Ouled Ali said. In some cases prices had fallen by 40 per cent compared to the

1990/1991 season.

Surplus stocks have become a nightmare for Tunisia.

Mr. Ouled Ali said they were now at "more than 100,000 tonnes." Traders gave a figure at 140,000 tonnes.

Mr. Ouled Ali said Tunisia exported 130,000 tonnes last season compared to official forecasts of 90,000 tonnes.

Tunisia's main market is the European Community, which imports a quota of 46,000 tonnes a year, fixed in 1985 under an agreement which has been renewed every year.

The quota was likely to be renewed if not increased for 1994, during the EC-Tunisia negotiations starting next week in Brussels, Mr. Ouled Ali said.

The quota is tantamount to a subsidy to Tunisian farmers because EC producers, led by Spain and Italy, already produce enough olive oil to satisfy Community demand.

But Mr. Ouled Ali said EC subsidies to European exporters of olive oil, up to \$1,000 to \$1,200 a tonne, made it difficult for Tunisia to be competitive on international markets.

# IBM agents seek major computer deal with PLO

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf agents of U.S. computer giant IBM are negotiating to clinch a deal with the PLO to computerise the Palestinian administration under autonomy plans, the agents said Tuesday.

Gulf Business Machines (GBM) hopes it will be awarded the project to install computers at Palestinian administrative departments when they are created in Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, GBM Manager Mustafa Rajbani told AFP.

"We are holding negotiations with the PLO economic department for a major automation project in Palestinian government institutions," he said. "We hope we will win the contract because we are an Arab company and should be given priority by the PLO."

GBM is the sole agent of the Armonk, New York-based International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) in the Gulf and is the biggest computer company in the region, where the computer market is estimated at around \$2 billion a year.

Mr. Rajbani, interviewed by telephone from an international computer show in Dubai, said his Bahrain-based company planned to open centres in the autonomous areas, which have been under Israeli occupation since 1967.

Jordanian banks

Mr. Rajbani said his company was also negotiating with the British Grindlays Bank, the Arab Bank, Jordan Bank and other banking units in the region to serve them when they open branches in Gaza and Jericho.

# HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4, 1993  
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As the Moon trines the Sun and Mercury you will have every opportunity to clear up whatever appears mysterious and to get yourself nominated as the logical leader for that social project that will serve others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your standing in the outside world should occupy your thoughts today for you should be able to uncover some means to increase public acclaim.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take some time out to consider some advanced methods by which you will be able to see opportunities facing you from an enlarged viewpoint.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Studying whatever periodicals are available that can add to your present material well being is a good path to pursue for attaining more assets.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over persons of a mundane trend turn of mind for they can be the best source of more success for you with vital undertakings.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You like to be helpful to those less fortunate and this is an excellent day and evening to spend available time being of service to other persons.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have the day now to

arrange for whatever interesting amusements are available to you during the coming days as well as enjoying recreations right now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good day to spend at your residence getting everything their in ship shape and deciding what you can do to enhance the well being at your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think out a course of action whereby you can use the time in the outside world during the coming days to better advantage, consult allies before this.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Even though with this day the aspects are fine for you to consider just what you can do to have more of this world's goods by your efforts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your best gift is in organising conditions and today find ways to bring things you want most to yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You like to dwell in the realm of the idealistic but today is your time to get into the nitty gritty of whatever opportunities face you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good day to join with a group of persons from whom you can learn much in the lines of interests that are most important to your progress.

# France debates shorter work week

PARIS (R) — With one eye on Volkswagen, France is debating whether a radical cut in the work week would save jobs and bring down record unemployment, but the ruling conservative parties are deeply split on the idea.

The French Senate will this week discuss an amendment to the government's employment bill encouraging company-by-company negotiations on shorter working hours, leading eventually to a four-day, 32-hour week.

Senator Gerard Larcher, of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's Gaullist RPR Party, has offered a proposal under which a 32-hour week would be compensated by lower social security payroll deductions and a cut in salary of about seven per cent.

The opposition Socialist Party, the minority CFDT trade union, and some, although not all, of the Rally for the Republic (RPR) back variations on this "work-sharing" principle.

Labour Minister Michel Giraud, an RPR member, opposed the amendment when it was first put forward in the national assembly last month.

But stung by charges that his own reform package was too timid to dent France's 11.8 per cent jobless rate, he has since said he is prepared to encourage experiments with shorter hours.

The debate is being conducted with a close eye on Germany, France's biggest economic partner, where recession-stricken car giant Volkswagen A.G. last week gave unions the choice of a four-day week with a 20 per cent pay cut or axing 30,000 jobs.

The French government's divisions were highlighted by a virulent article by Small Business Minister Alain Madelin in the conservative daily Le Figaro Tuesday.

Mr. Madelin, an ultra-liberal advocate of deregulation, said

history proved that cutting working hours did not create jobs.

He cited the former Socialist government's reduction of the work week to 39 hours and introduction of a fifth week of annual holiday to buttress his case.

"It is stupefying how much attention is being given to this idea which defies common sense... it is blindingly obvious that working less won't get us out of trouble," said Mr. Madelin, a member of the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF).

He noted that the industrialised countries with the lowest unemployment rates — the United States and Japan — were those where people worked far more hours per year than in Europe.

Mr. Madelin said German leaders were now rueing as "the mistake of the century" an agreement with the metalworkers' union to move to a

35-hour week.

President Francois Mitterrand gave his blessing to the principle of shorter working hours in a television interview last week but said it was up to workers and employers to negotiate and the state could not impose a solution.

"We must find new ways," Mr. Mitterrand said. "The debate on job-sharing and a reduction in working hours is a good debate."

A group of 28 conservative members of parliament issued a joint statement Tuesday denouncing the Larcher amendment.

"A 32-hour week is not likely to resolve the problem of unemployment and seems more likely to worsen it," they said.

The government should try instead to maximise job creation by fighting rigidities in the labour market and removing constraints on small businesses, they said.

# Iran devalues riyal again

NICOSIA (R) — Iran devalued the riyal against the dollar Wednesday for the third consecutive day, adding to turmoil in Iran's foreign exchange market.

The central bank set the dollar at 1,663/1,665 riyals, against 1,628/1,630 Tuesday, a devaluation of 2,103 per cent.

Other major currencies were similarly marked up.

"There are many buyers (of dollars), but sellers are hesitant, figuring the dollar might go even higher," said Ali Pakpour, an Iranian money dealer in London.

He said a confused riyal market was waiting for clues and he knew of no deals made in Europe Wednesday morning. Cash dollars were traded at 1,700 to 1,720 riyals in Tehran, up to 40 riyals above Tuesday's close, he said.

Mr. Pakpour said that after several months of relative stability for the riyal the central bank was now devaluing to raise more riyals.

# IBM agents seek major computer deal with PLO

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf agents of U.S. computer giant IBM are negotiating to clinch a deal with the PLO to computerise the Palestinian administration under autonomy plans, the agents said Tuesday.

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# HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5, 1993  
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the Moon in Leo aspecting Pluto, Venus, Mars and Jupiter you can bet it is going to be a busy Friday with many unusual twists and turns. Avoid fits and problems with close ties and co-workers.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into the various outside activities to be done early and then you can consider how to obtain your hopes and wishes in a more colourful fashion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can be direct about business persons in getting their practical suggestions early in the day while later don't commit yourself without much thought.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) State straight forwardly your views to a dynamic associate and get his/her support before you start putting any joint arrangements into execution.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make a great start at whatever activities of work nature face you even though later outside duties then claim your attention.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind where your particular aptitudes are concerned can be worked out to your satisfaction then later bury yourself in routine tasks.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get into various standpoints of family members early and harmonise with them while later it is advisable to be thoughtful of your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can get much of value achieved during the day time in buddies with usual allies but then later make sure you do not invite contentious person into your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A flash of good judgment about what to do regarding money or property is yours early in the day after which make a point to use care on the high way.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go after what you want in a confident and direct manner after which it is advisable that you use care in anything that concerns your property.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You see good ways to business private ideas across in the days ahead so round them out while later you need to see, be with only proven friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can be just as social as you wish in the morning so see or contact good friends after which you need to rise above tendencies to be depressed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind of a worldly nature should be put into motion before noon for then you find that personal wishes take precedence.

# Uzbekistan integrating economy with Kazakhstan

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (R) — Uzbekistan said Tuesday it was taking steps to integrate its economy with that of neighbouring Kazakhstan and the two Central Asian countries would issue a joint currency.

Deputy Prime Minister Bakhtir Hamidov, quoted by foreign minister spokesman Zafar Ruziev, told a news conference in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, that Russia had attached unreasonable conditions to Uzbekistan's entry into a new rouble zone.

"The conditions of Russia are enslaving," Mr. Ruziev, reached by telephone from Ashgabat, quoted Mr. Hamidov as saying.

"Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are planning now to introduce a common currency," he said.

Mr. Hamidov did not give a date for the introduction of the proposed new currency and did not say what it would be called. Mr. Ruziev said it was not clear if any firm bilateral agreement had been signed between the former Soviet Republics.

A presidential spokesman in Kazakhstan, reached by telephone, said he had not heard of the plan.

But a senior Kazakh government minister Monday expressed similar bitterness over Russia's terms for joining the new-style rouble zone.

First Deputy Prime Minister Daulet Sembayev spoke then in terms of Kazakhstan pressing ahead with plans to introduce its own currency, to be called the tenge, by January.

Uzbekistan, with a population of 22 million, ranks fourth in the world for cotton production and eighth for gold.

Kazakhstan, a huge land stretching from the Volga River to the Chinese border, is rich in oil and has nuclear weapons on its soil. Its population is around 17 million.

Both nations had made preliminary agreements with Russia to be included in the zone of countries which might use roubles issued by Moscow earlier this year.

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan now both use old roubles

issued before 1993. These are not legal tender in Russia and have been losing value against the dollar, raising inflation and causing a host of economic problems.

Listing what he called the enslaving conditions demanded by Russia, Mr. Hamidov said Moscow had said any new roubles delivered to Uzbekistan would be given as credits.

Fifty per cent of the new roubles would have to be backed by Uzbek gold and the new roubles would be exchanged at a rate of one new rouble to 2.5,

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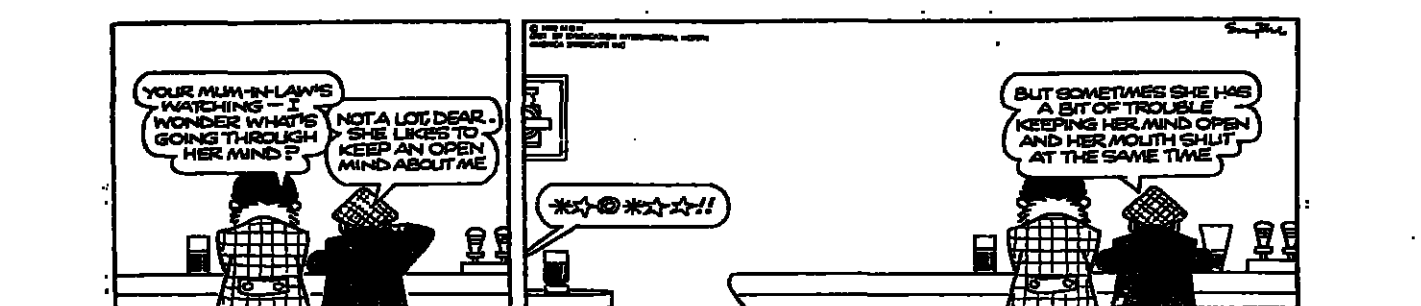
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Fifty per cent of the new roubles would have to be backed by Uzbek gold and the new roubles would be exchanged at a rate of one new rouble to 2.5,

# Peanuts



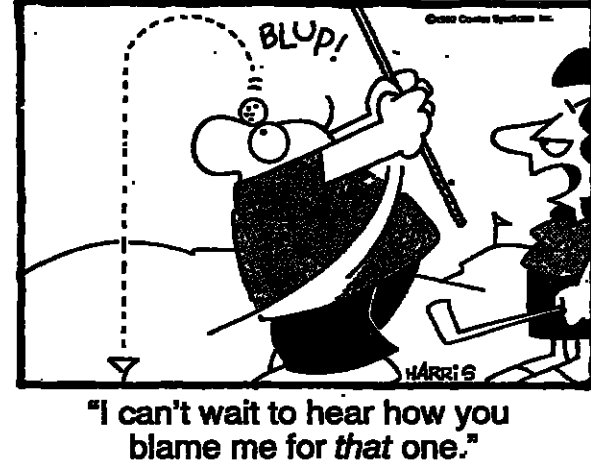
# Andy Capp



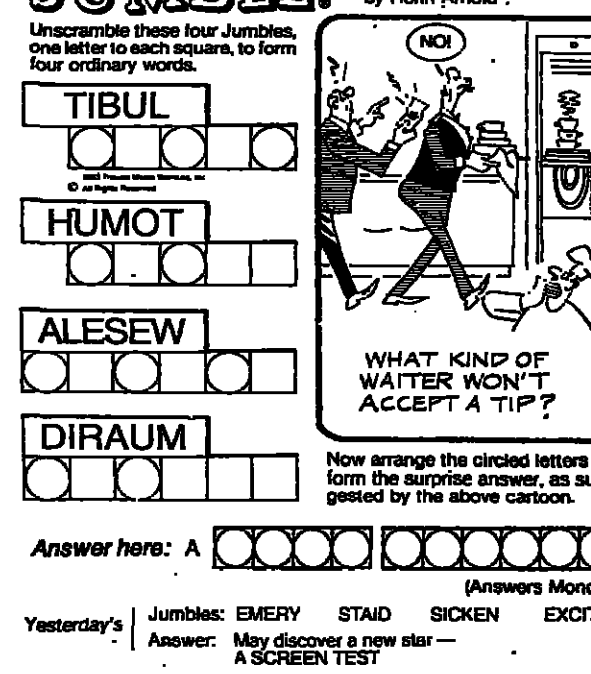
# Mutt'n'Jeff



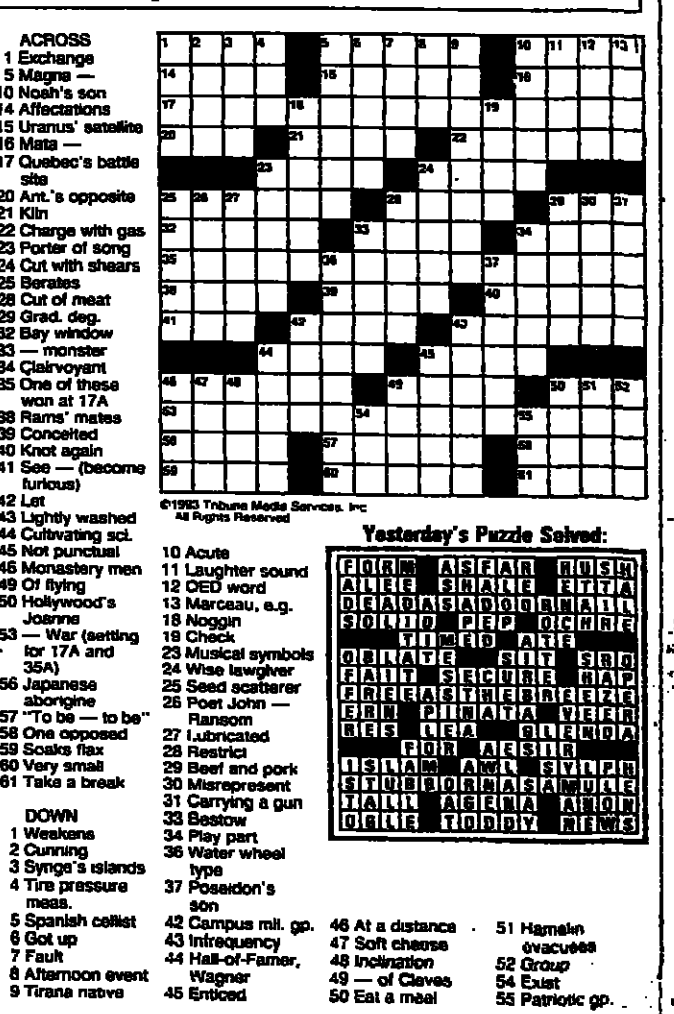
# THE BETTER HALF.



# JUMBLE.



# THE Daily Crossword









## Russian forces authorised to make nuclear first strike

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's armed forces are authorised to make a nuclear first strike in case of an external nuclear threat, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Wednesday in a major shift for Soviet policy.

Mr. Grachev was giving details at a press conference of the military doctrine adopted Tuesday by the Russian Security Council.

He said that nuclear weapons could be used "first, in case of an attack by a (non-nuclear state) that is in alliance with a nuclear power against the Russian Federation, its territory, its armed forces and the troops of its allies."

In the second case, Russia could strike first "in case of a joint action by states possessing nuclear weapons to attack or sustain an offensive against Russia or its allies," Mr. Grachev said.

He said Russia's political aim in the area of nuclear arms was "to eliminate the threat of nuclear war and to have recourse to nuclear weapons as a means of dissuasion to prevent the extension of an aggression against the Russian Federation and its allies," in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Henceforth, Russia no longer has a "potential enemy" as it did under former Soviet ideology, he said.

In principle, Russia will "not employ nuclear arms against another member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which does not itself possess nuclear weapons, except in the two cases cited," he said.

Asked what had prompted

the change from Soviet doctrine, which prohibited a first strike, the defence minister said the former Soviet Union was "another state, from another era."

He went on to rule out the possibility of use of nuclear weapons, insisting the "system of controls is reliable."

"On person alone, even the president himself, cannot use a nuclear weapon," he said.

Mr. Grachev stressed that henceforth Russia considered that non-nuclear regional conflicts constituted the principal danger to its security.

The Russian army must provide itself with "offensive means" to curb a local war if necessary, he said, adding that Russia's main defence efforts would go towards forming a powerful "rapid action force" by the year 1996.

Russian plans to use its mobile force — which for the moment consists of former Soviet airborne troops, a helicopter regiment and the 27th Motorised Brigade — in missions to separate belligerent parties, he said.

The defence minister also said the government would call on the army to help curb internal conflicts.

"Army units and other troops may be used, in collaboration with the Interior Ministry, to curb a conflict in a region, to prevent armed conflicts and separate adverse parties, as well as to defend sensitive targets, in accordance with the law," Mr. Grachev said, citing the new doctrine.

The new defence doctrine was prepared before events

last month when the army was called out to crush a rebellion by the parliament, he said, adding, "These events underscored the correctness of our decision."

Meanwhile, the bloody suppression of the parliamentary revolt by Russian troops a month ago is becoming a hot issue for debate ahead of the Dec. 12 general elections.

Questions are again being asked about the real death toll in the fighting of Oct. 3 and 4, with some suggesting that as many as 1,000 people died.

Meanwhile Boris Yeltsin's government has issued dire warnings of "provocations" by the armed opposition.

Little is expected to happen, however, on next Sunday's anniversary of the 1917 revolution that brought the Communists to power, the government having banned all demonstrations.

Communist organisations have said they will heed the ban, and warned that any trouble will be the government's responsibility.

The hardline militants who were crushed by Mr. Yeltsin's tanks are largely dead or under arrest, but Moscow regional security chief General Yevgeni Savostianov predicted this week that armed rebels would rise again.

"It is clear that the resumption of their activity is inevitable," Gen. Savostianov told Izvestia in an interview published Monday. "The backers of the attempted coup of 1991 took four months to recover, but in the present case the process is being accelerated by

the approach of the elections."

Gen. Savostianov took the opportunity to demand that the security services have the automatic right to monitor the activities of political parties.

President Yeltsin presented regional leaders with a draft new constitution Wednesday, making clear he would not allow constituent republics to secede from the Russian Federation.

In confident mood in the Kremlin's marble hall, Mr. Yeltsin told executive leaders of 89 republics and regions that they had to approve four controversial points in the constitution by the end of the day so it could be published by Nov. 10.

This would allow a clear month — the legal requirement — before a referendum on the new basic law for post-Soviet Russia, scheduled for Dec. 12.

The first controversial point would allow ministers and regional administration chiefs to stand for parliament, something banned under the previous system.

The second point would give the 67 Russian regions the same legal status as the 21 ethnic-based republics. This was certain to anger some republic leaders, who want the greater rights of self-government they had before.

The third point was removing any reference to the republics as "sovereign states" and the fourth was how a federal treaty, signed nearly two years ago to enshrine regional powers, should be brought into the constitution.

## Bosnian Croats abandon town as Muslims advance

VISOKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Bosnian Croat forces have abandoned their central Bosnian stronghold of Vares threatened by a three-pronged attack by troops of the Muslim-led Sarajevo government, U.N. military officials said Wednesday.

Captain Stefan Sijokvist, assigned to the Swedish U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) unit in Vares, said the Croats pulled out overnight and were apparently heading south, possibly through Serb territory.

"It looks like most of the HVO (Croatian Defence Council) troops have left," Captain Sijokvist told an AFP reporter in the nearby town of Visoko.

UNPROFOR had estimated there were about 1,000 to 2,000 HVO in the Vares pocket.

The UNPROFOR officer could not say when the Bosnian army would move in, "but I think it's a matter of a short time."

Vares, a prosperous trading hub 30 kilometres north of Sarajevo, had been threatened by the Bosnian army's Second

Corps from the north. Third Corps from the west, and elements of the Sixth Corps from the south.

He said that at least 2,500 Croat refugees streamed out of the town in the face of the threatened attack by the Bosnian army coming 11 days after a massacre by HVO troops in the nearby Muslim village of Stupni Do.

But in Sarajevo, Ray Wilkinson, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), put the number of refugees at 15,000.

He said 5,000 were blocked in a quarry in Dastanko, east of Vares, and 10,000 others had fled into neighbouring fields and forests.

In Oslo, peace talks between the Croatian government and leaders of the breakaway Serb region of Krajina ended Wednesday, without agreement on a ceasefire.

"I am very disappointed. We were so close to a ceasefire," United Nations mediator Knut Vollebaek, assistant to U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg told reporters at Fagernes, 250 kilometres northwest of Oslo.

As the two parties boarded a

flight for Yugoslavia, Mr. Vollebaek said the talks would continue, "but not today".

The secret negotiations started Monday at the mountain resort of Beitostolen, near Fagernes.

At a press conference the Croats and Serbs blamed each other for the deadlock.

The head of the Serbian delegation, self-styled President of Krajina, Goran Hadzic, said the two sides had almost agreed on a ceasefire, to be followed by political and economic agreements, when new instructions from Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Tuesday completely jammed the talks.

Meanwhile, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu suggested in Brussels Wednesday that United Nations economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro were unfair.

He said: "It is becoming more and more evident that sanctions imposed against Serbia and Montenegro penalise only one part (of ex-Yugoslavia) even though it has proved its willingness to find a solution to the problem."

Mr. Papandreu was speaking in an interview with the Belgian newspaper Le Soir. He said Greece wanted to develop a "coherent (Balkan) policy for the European Community during the Greek stint as EC president from January to June."

"We have a particular interest to fully support efforts for establishing peace in ex-Yugoslavia and for stability and cooperation," Mr. Papandreu said.

He added: "Our ambition is to exploit the fact that Greece is a Balkan member of the European Community."

The Greek prime minister showed little sign of bending in the row between Athens and the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia over its choice of a name, which is the same as that of a northern Greek province.

"The future of our relations with that state depends directly on its willingness to abandon its intransigent and provocative behaviour which consists of usurping a Greek name and Greek symbols, and refusing to recognise existing borders," Mr. Papandreu said.

## Republicans sweep in N. Jersey, Virginia and NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Republicans swept to three dramatic victories Tuesday night, ousting New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio and New York City Mayor David Dinkins and wrestling the top job in Virginia from Democratic hands as well.

Christie Whitman won by a razor-thin margin in New Jersey, denying Florio a second term. The New York race was another cliffhanger, with Rudolph Giuliani narrowly winning his rematch against Mr. Dinkins.

There was no such drama in Virginia, where Republican George Allen beat Democrat Mary Sue Terry 58 per cent to 41 per cent and ended 12 years of Democratic rule in Richmond.

The GOP triumphs were the latest in a series of electoral embarrassments for President Bill Clinton and his party just a year after his White House victory.

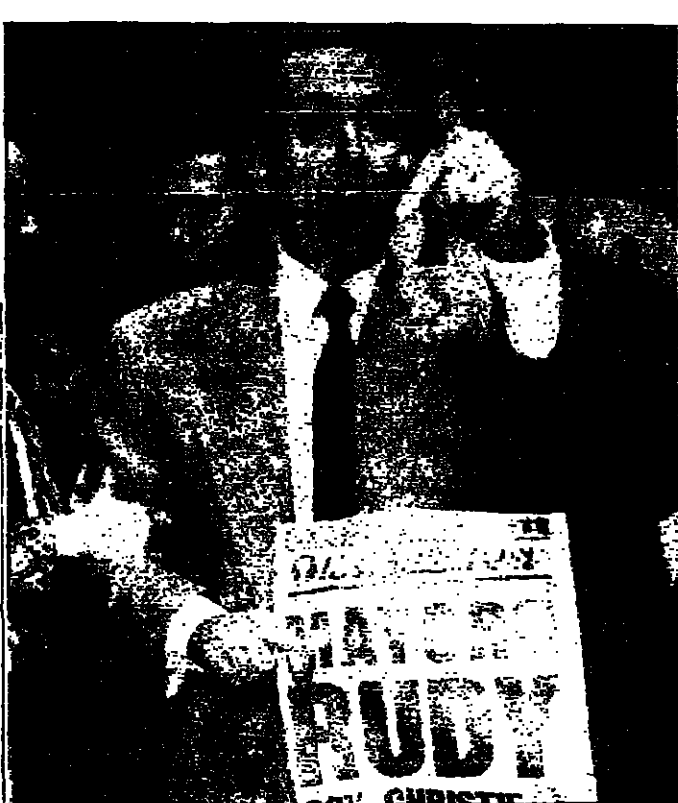
Ms. Whitman, who made an issue of Mr. Florio's record \$2.8 billion tax increase enacted in 1990, said her election "sent a message right across this nation."

Hours earlier in Richmond, former Congressman Allen claimed victory in a race he began as a huge underdog.

"The people have demanded honest leadership from their Virginia government and they'll get it," Mr. Allen told cheering supporters.

With those verdicts in, Mr. Dinkins was the Democrats' last-gasp hope for blocking a GOP sweep in the night's big three contests.

At midnight, Mr. Dinkins had a tiny lead, but it quickly evaporated — taking the



New York City Mayor-Elect Rudolph Giuliani points to supporters while holding a newspaper proclaiming him the winner of the mayoral race over incumbent Democrat David Dinkins (AFP photo)

Democrats' hopes with it. With 100 per cent of the New York vote in, Mr. Giuliani won 51 per cent to 48 per cent.

Mr. Giuliani, claiming victory after a campaign in which race was a frequent issue, told supporters: "It is time to heal... No ethnic, religious or racial group will escape my concern, my care and my attention."

Mr. Dinkins' supporters

chanted "recount" as he delivered his concession speech, but he urged them to cooperate with Mr. Giuliani.

"We must help him be as good a mayor as he can," Mr. Dinkins said. "We must reject the notion that what has happened today is anything other than a fair and forthright call for change."

Even beyond New York, the nation's city halls saw dramatic

turnover, as Boston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Miami and Minneapolis led a long list of open mayoral contests and the incumbent in Hartford, Connecticut, was ousted.

In all, there were race or ballot questions in 29 states. In a warning to incumbents, term limits were endorsed by voters in Maine and New York City. And anxiety about crime was evident in Texas, where voters approved a \$1 billion bond issue to build more prisons.

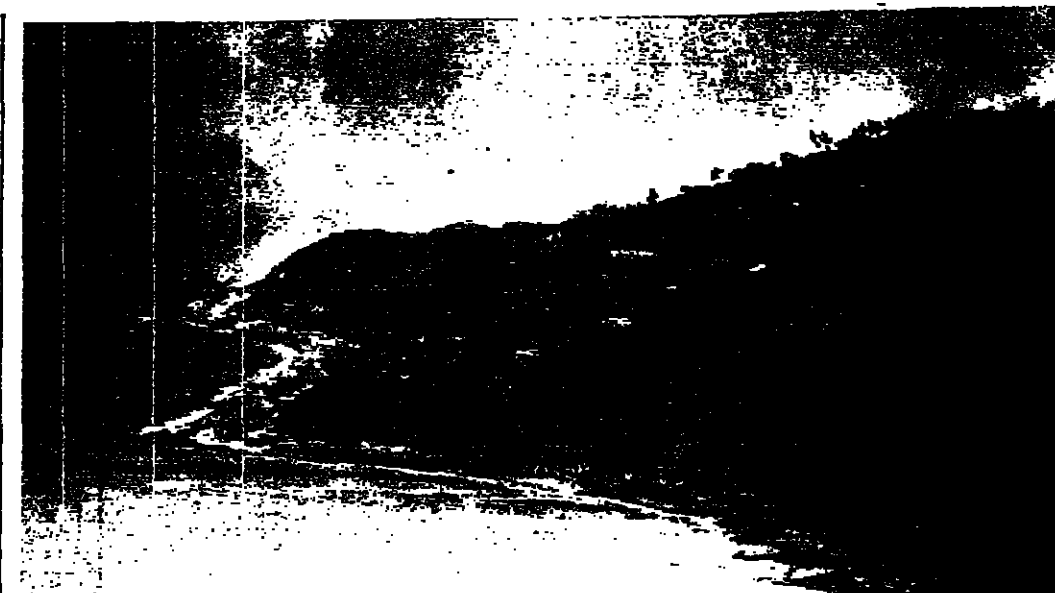
The crime and tax debates collided in California, where voters chose whether to adopt a permanent halfpenny sales tax and dedicate the money to local police and fire departments.

California voters rejected a school voucher proposal, and gay rights laws were repealed in Cincinnati and Lewiston, Maine.

The three big democratic defeats came on the heels of three others for the party since Mr. Clinton won last year's presidential race: Senate races in Georgia and Texas, and the Los Angeles mayor's race.

"The Democrats like to say all politics is local," said National Republican Chairman Haley Barbour. "Well, we learned again that, locally, Mr. Clinton is a very unpopular president."

A somber Democratic chairman, David Wilhelm attributed the defeats to a clamouring for change — the dynamic that benefited Mr. Clinton a year ago. "It was a good night for Republicans, but there will be other elections and we will be back."



Flames crest the side on the mountains above Malibu as wildfires hit southern California again (AFP photo)

## California wildfires race into Malibu

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Savage winds sent waves of fire raging over canyon ranches and seaside mansions in this celebrity hideaway, forcing thousands to load up their Jaguars and jeeps and crowd onto gridlocked highways.

It was southern California's seventh day of wildfires. Twice in a week, firestorms have gutted whole neighbourhoods.

Two men were near death early Wednesday, more than 200 homes and other buildings were destroyed, and 20,000 acres of rugged canyon, pricey homes and sprawling horse ranches were black.

Flame-topped palm trees dotted the heavy smoke as the fire raced out of control from Santa Monica Mountain canyons 12 miles (19 kms) inland, to the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

"It just came thundering down. By the time I left, it looked like 'Apocalypse Now,'" said writer Richard Christian Matheson, who believes his house burned after he fled.

Just off the beach, a Coast Guard cutter waited to evacuate people by sea if necessary.

Firefighters perched atop life-guard towers to monitor the blaze.

Chaos reigned at roadblocks along usually scenic Pacific coast highway. People trying to get out of road space with drivers scrambling home after learning of the fire. Frantic, some abandoned their cars, trapping firefighters in massive traffic jams.

On Wednesday, evacuees filled hotels in neighboring beach communities like Santa Monica and Marina Del Rey, standing on balconies, parks and piers to watch the flames and wonder about what they left behind.

About 130 sheriff's and high-way officers patrolled empty Malibu streets to guard against looting of high-priced houses.

Elsewhere across southern California, several other fires erupted Tuesday and roared through brittle brushland, just days after firestorms torched more than 800 buildings and burned thousands of acres. A total of 17 people were injured Tuesday.

Fire threatened Pepperdine University and Hughes Re-

search Laboratories late Tuesday as firefighters ran out of water.

University spokesman Jeff Bliss said about 500 students and staff remained sheltered in a campus gymnasium.

"We're staying here until the fire department tells us to move," Mr. Bliss said.

The Malibu fire, in western Los Angeles County, created a billowing cloud of reddish-brown smoke visible 60 miles east.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation.

Residents of Malibu Colony — a private beachfront enclave of multimillion dollar homes owned by such stars as Sting, Bob Newhart, Burgess Meredith and Larry Hagman — were ordered to leave, said fire deputy Benito Hinojosa.

The fire erupted as hot, dry Santa Ana Winds gusting at up to 53 mph (85 kph) returned to southern California.

More than 3,000 firefighters battled the blaze in Malibu, a mile-wide city of 15,000 that winds along 27 beachfront miles.

## Aspin warns N. Korea, holds talks in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin held military talks with South Korean leaders Wednesday, and warned North Korea it could be slapped with international sanctions if it did not give up a quest for nuclear weapons.

Mr. Aspin's threat against the North, issued in Tokyo before flying here for two days of annual defence meetings, was however vague and signalled reluctance by Washington and its Pacific allies to anger Pyongyang's unpredictable leaders.

In Seoul, Mr. Aspin met South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo and Defence Minister Kwon Young-Hae. On Thursday, he holds talks with President Kim Young-Sam.

Mr. Aspin told a Tokyo news conference the U.S. strategy was to put diplomatic pressure on North Korea to stop rejecting international inspection of nuclear facilities and end speculation it is secretly trying to build nuclear arms. "If the diplomatic alternative should fail, we would be looking at several other possi-

ble options. One of those, of course, is the possibility of sanctions," Mr. Aspin said.

But senior U.S. officials told reporters travelling with Mr. Aspin any trade, financial or other sanctions proposed by Washington and voted by the United Nations could devastate Pyongyang's staggering economy and spark "unpredictable" action.

Their fears of retaliation were confirmed just hours after Mr. Aspin's arrival, when Pyongyang abruptly cancelled bilateral talks with South Korea which were due to have been held Thursday at the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom.

North Korea said it was calling off the talks because of "dangerous" remarks by Defence Minister Kwon.

"The defence minister made dangerous and violent remarks during a special news conference on the eve of annual security talks (between the United States and South Korea) that they will not decline to use military action to deter nuclear development," a North Korean statement said.

"Such violent remarks amounted to the rejection of working-level contacts under way to negotiate the exchange of special envoys." There was no immediate confirmation that Mr. Kwon had made the comments.

The North-South talks would have been the fourth in a series which started in October, aimed at agreeing on an exchange with resolving the nuclear dispute.

Mr. Aspin said after meetings with Japanese officials in Tokyo that Washington, Japan and South Korea were discussing the nuclear threat from North Korea and several questions must be answered before resorting to sanctions: "Are they appropriate? Would they work? Would they result in the desired outcome?"

The U.N. General Assembly Monday overwhelmingly passed a resolution urging North Korea to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities, especially a site at Yongbyon, 90 kilometres north of Pyongyang, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

## Georgians battle rebels in Khobi

MOSCOW (AFP) — Government troops battled Wednesday for control of the west Georgian town of Khobi amid reports that rebels were forcing refugees in Abkhazia to take up arms against Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

Georgian troops entered Khobi Tuesday but were unable to capture before nightfall the key town located about 15 kilometres from the rebel headquarters of Zugdidi, the Georgian Defence Ministry quoted by Interfax said.

The news agency quoted unofficial sources in Tbilisi as saying that rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia had convinced tens of thousands of refugees from Abkhazia to rise up against Shevardnadze.

"They are being told that the

cause of their problems lies in Shevardnadze's policies," Interfax said, adding that several units made up of a few thousands men had been formed.

The report stated that the rebels were holding the families of refugees hostage and promised to release them once the men agreed to go to the front.

Meanwhile, Russian troops dispatched to protect a vital railway link in western Georgia maintained their positions, allowing a train carrying artillery and soldiers to travel from Senaki to Poti, the press centre of Russian troops based in the Transcaucasus said, according to Interfax.

Six ships from the Black Sea Fleet were dispatched Tuesday to Poti and to Batumi to de-

fend the Georgian ports as part of a joint mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

A Georgian freelance cameraman working for the London-based network Worldwide Television News (WTN) has reportedly been executed in Georgia after being charged with espionage, WTN said Wednesday.

Quoting reports from journalists in the area, WTN said David Bolkvadze, 24, had been arrested in the west Georgian town of Khobi while covering the conflict there.

Mr. Bolkvadze "is believed to have been executed by forces loyal to former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia after having been arrested on charges of espionage," WTN said in a statement.

## Burundi government, army agree on troops

BUJUMBURA (R) — The Burundian army will not stand in the way of an international force to protect ministers who survived a coup which later collapsed, the army said Wednesday.

"It is the government's prerogative and we are only an element of the legitimate government. That is our agreement," said army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Bosco Daradangwa.

The army had reached the

agreement with civilian Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi, the top official since soldiers assassinated President Melchior Ndadaye and six of his ministers, he said in a statement.

Remnants of Mr. Ndadaye's government have been holed up at the French embassy in the capital since the coup on Oct. 21.

The surviving ministers have said they will only come out if an estimated 1,000 foreign

troops are deployed to protect them.

The army, controlled by the relatively small but powerful Tutsi tribe, had previously opposed foreign troops intervening.

Members of the Tutsi tribe and of the majority Hutu have been massacring each other in Burundi since the coup. Mr. Ndadaye became the most Hutu president of Burundi after he was elected in June,

## Rapper gets rapped as cops cop it

ATLANTA (R) — Hollywood rap artist Tupac Amaru Shakur was released on bail after being charged with aggravated assault for allegedly shooting two off-duty policemen in downtown Atlanta. The officers and their wives were crossing the street when a car allegedly driven by Shakur almost hit one of the women. An argument ensued and police say several black men got out of the car just before shooting started. Shakur gained fame when a man listening to his music shot and killed a Texas state trooper. Lyrics such as "cops on my tail/they finally pull me over and I laugh/remember Rodney King/and I blast his punk ass" led to demands it be withdrawn.

## Wheel falls off Indian plane. Only passenger notices

NEW DELHI (R) — A wheel fell off an Indian Airlines plane as it was taking off and an insistent passenger had to convince a sceptical pilot that there was a problem, an airline spokesman said Tuesday.

"Yes, it's true. We've ordered an inquiry," he said. The spokesman said one of the two rear left wheels fell off Sunday as the plane, carrying 126 passengers, took off from Nagpur on a flight to New Delhi. It landed safely, albeit tilted to the right, amid a full emergency operation. He said a passenger seated on the rear left side of the aircraft saw the wheel fall off and immediately informed the pilot, who checked his instruments and detected no problem. Only when the agitated passenger kept on insisting he had seen the wheel fall off did the pilot make further checks and discover it, he said. The spokesman said.

More than 3,000 firefighters battled the blaze in Malibu, a mile-wide city of 15,000 that winds along 27 beachfront miles.

## 2 modern day Fagins jailed for bank robberies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two modern day Fagins who recruited young teenagers to rob banks for them were sentenced to lengthy prison terms Monday after pleading guilty to robbery, conspiracy and carjacking. Robert Brown, 23, was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Stephen Wilson and his partner, 24-year-old Donzell Thompson, received a 25-year term. Both men were members of the Rollin Sixties' Crips Street Gang. Prosecutors said Brown had been implicated in 175 robberies over a four-year period, making him the "all-time bank robbery champion of America. Like the fictional Fagin who taught young boys to pick pockets in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, Brown and Thompson were never at the scene of the crimes. Instead they directed the robberies from stolen cars cruising in the area and met with their young accomplices later to split the proceeds. The previous bank robbery record had been held by Edwin Dotson, dubbed the "Yankee Bandit" because he wore a New York Yankees baseball cap, who robbed 64 banks in southern California in 1983 and 1984.

## Mercurial treat for daytime stargazers

BEIJING (R) — Chinese astronomers are predicting a rare celestial event Saturday, when the planet Mercury will pass in front of the Sun. The 99-minute eclipse, starting at 0307 GMT, will be visible to the naked eye in Asia, East Africa, Eastern Europe, the Indian Ocean, Oceania and the Pacific, the Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanjing said Tuesday. The planet will be closest to the centre of the sun at 0356 GMT, or 11.56 a.m. in China, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted astronomers as saying. "Only when Mercury orbits between the Earth and the sun can we see the planet as a small black spot slowly passing in front of the sun," the observatory said. "The sight may not be very splendid but it is a significant phenomenon in that it can be seen only 13 times in every 100 years," it said.

## Tobacco heiress leaves \$1.2b

NEW YORK (R) — Tobacco heiress Doris Duke, who died last week at the age of 80, left an estate of \$1.2 billion and directed that nearly all the money go to charity and none to an adopted daughter. The will also calls on long-time friend Imelda Marcos to pay back a \$5 million loan.



## NBA enters post-Jordan era

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The sudden departure of Michael Jordan is either the end of an era or a new lease on life for the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Jordan's stunning announcement on Oct. 6, that he would not be leading Chicago's bid for a fourth straight NBA title when the season starts Friday, prompted talk of tragedy among NBA fans and even some league insiders.

Commissioner David Stern, however, was not among the doom merchants.

"What happened to Drazen Petrovic and Reggie Lewis were tragedies," Stern said, referring to the deaths of two star players this summer. "What happened to Magic Johnson was very sad."

"What happened with Michael is good for Michael."

And good for the New York Knicks, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Phoenix Suns and a host of young players vying to inherit Jordan's role as the undisputed superstar of the NBA.

While the marketing men writing their hands in despair at the loss of the NBA's most valuable asset, coaches around the league are rubbing their hands in glee.

The Cavaliers, for instance, have been beaten by Chicago in the playoffs four times since 1988, twice on last-second shots by Jordan.

"A lot of teams have been haunted by Michael Jordan, not just the Cleveland Cavaliers," said Mike Fratello, the Cavs' new coach. "No one in the league was able to dethrone him."

Without Jordan's Bulls in the way, The New York Knicks are clear favorites to go all the way.

The Knicks, who fell to Chicago in the NBA east playoffs in the last two years, have a potential most valuable player in Patrick Ewing and the best defense in the league.

"We aspire to the title," coach Pat Riley said cautiously, "but it is a mistake to assume it is going to be easy just because Michael Jordan has retired."

His players are less circumspect.

"When you set lofty goals, you set yourself up for a fall," said guard Doc Rivers. "But I would rather have it that way."

Bulls coach Phil Jackson is counting on Scottie Pippen to step into the vacuum created by Jordan's exit. He could also benefit from some quick learning by NBA newcomer Toni Kukoc.

As soon as Jordan retired, bookmakers dropped Chicago's odds of repeating as champions from 5-2 to 25-1.

"We're a longer shot than the Las Vegas oddsmakers have made us," Jackson said.

Chicago's period of adjustment will also give breathing room to the east's expansion teams.

Charlotte, considered expansion upstarts when they reached the playoffs this season, can be expected to do so again, led by second-year pro Alonzo Mourning, who has obviously taken to heart the lessons of his mentor, Ewing.

The new Jersey Nets and the Boston Celtics must rebuild skills and spirits after the deaths of Petrovic and Lewis. The Celtics also lost Larry Bird to retirement.

In the west, Charles Barkley has proclaimed 1993-94 his last season, and he desperately wants to retire with a championship ring.

But his Suns came close to losing to the Los Angeles Lakers early in last year's playoffs, and their path to the finals this season is far from clear.

The Houston Rockets also have a player with a powerful championship aspirations in Nigerian Hakeem Olajuwon.

The Seattle superstars boast a roster so deep and versatile that coach George Karl probably cannot put a poor team on the floor. Last season the Sonics led the league in steals, forcing turnovers and point differential. If they can up their scoring, they will pose a real threat.

The Portland Trail Blazers need a good year from Clyde Drexler if they want to go far.

Drexler has recovered from knee injuries that bothered him last year, but he has already skipped a practice this year to lobby for a contract extension which Portland management declined to give him.

While some veterans are haggling over contract extensions, a clutch of rookies come into the league as multi-millionaires, and it will be interesting to see if they earn their pay.

Anfernee Hardaway, Shawn Bradley and Chris Webber all signed contracts worth more than \$40 million each before playing a single NBA game.

"These contracts are very dangerous," said Milwaukee coach Mike Dunleavy. "Teams are playing Russian Roulette giving \$60 to \$70 million contracts to players who have not really proved themselves. Some of them are going to be mistakes."

## Spanish soccer in a state of shock after European disasters

MADRID (R) — Spanish soccer was in a state of shock Wednesday after the humiliation of Valencia and the controversial elimination of Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Cup Tuesday.

The 7-0 thrashing of Spanish League leaders Valencia by Karlsruhe of Germany left players, coach and directors shaking their heads with disbelief.

Club Chairman Arturo Tuzon described it as "a debacle, a disaster," adding: "This was one of the saddest nights of my life."

Dutch coach Guus Hiddink bravely confronted reporters. "We didn't even have the pride to fight back," he said. "This

was a hard blow for me. It must have been one of the worst matches in the history of Valencia."

The result was doubly shocking after the first leg in which Valencia comprehensively outplayed Karlsruhe and were unlucky not to go into the second leg with more than a 3-1 lead.

They had five clear chances in Tuesday's match and hit the post twice near the end of the first half, but finally folded under the high-speed, no-frills onslaught of the Germans.

"What we have to do now, although it will be hard, is draw the necessary conclusions and then forget it," Hiddink said.

For Atletico the pill of de-

feat by Ofi Crete was just as bitter and much more laced with controversy.

Spanish commentators were unanimous that Ofi's second goal, which overturned Atletico's 1-0 first leg lead, existed only in the eyes of the Czech referee — and of 15,000 ecstatic Cretan fans.

"We were robbed," "this was a mugging," and "it didn't go in" were among a raft of headlines insisting that a 61st minute penalty, itself hotly disputed, was saved by goalkeeper Diego Diaz and did not cross the line.

Diego dived to his right to turn George Tsifoutis's shot against the inside of the post. As it bounced back across

the goal Diego dived again to scoop the ball away with his left hand, but the referee ruled it had crossed the line, a view apparently contradicted by television replays.

Atletico's explosive Chairman Jesus Gil was unusually restrained in his comments.

"I knew that if they scored one goal the referee would give them another," he said, but refused to be drawn into specific accusations against officials.

"What's the point talking about the referee? All we can do is send a video to UEFA so that they see that the goal should not have been given and keep it among the injustices they have perpetrated against Atletico."

## Timman casts doubt on Karpov's chess title

JAKARTA (R) — Dutchman Jan Timman has cast doubt on the credibility of Anatoly Karpov's world chess title after losing an exhausting eight-week struggle with the Russian in Indonesia this week.

Timman, 41, was finally beaten 12.5 points to 8.5 by Karpov, 42, Monday in the official title match which was often upstaged by a rival contest between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short in London.

"Karpov is not the world's number one," Timman told reporters.

"Kasparov has proved himself the best in both tournament and match play. Karpov

is the official world champion but I am not sure what that really means."

Karpov is ranked second in the world to Kasparov of Russia and his ranking will not improve as a result of his unexpectedly narrow victory over Timman, ranked 31st.

Kasparov, 30, was stripped of his official world title in April by the World Chess Federation for refusing to play his title defence against England's Short under the auspices of the federation.

He claims to be the only legitimate world champion and has tried to set up an alternative world title system.

After hearing Timman's comments Karpov was reluctant to compare himself with Kasparov, the winner of an unofficial world title defence against Short, 28, in London recently.

"It's not a sensible question. There are now two systems and two world champions," said Karpov, undisputed world champion from 1975 to 1985.

"Of course, we should have only one world champion. I don't think the break-away (by Kasparov and Dhort) was good for chess."

Timman agreed, saying, "there was no good reason for the break-away, otherwise I

would have supported it."

Karpov and Timman doubted if Kasparov would be able to set up a fair qualifying system for the world title.

"Kasparov's world championship qualifying tournament offers really quite poor financial conditions," Timman said.

"In any case, I did not receive an official invitation to play in their tournament," he added, hinting he might have been blacklisted by organisers with connections to Kasparov.

Timman believes the division in the chess world could worsen. "I fear for the future," he said.

## Bad boy trainer makes good; eyes Breeders Cup

ARCADIA, California (R) — Bobby Frankel may be the best trainer of thoroughbreds never to have won a Breeders' Cup race, but he is determined to change that Saturday when he sends five horses to the starting gate.

Frankel, with close to \$7 million in purses, is heavily favored to win this year's Eclipse Award as the nation's leading trainer, but he did not always command respect among horse racing's aristocracy.

Back in the late 1960s, with the flavour of the New York streets still in him, Frankel couldn't get an invitation to sweep an owner's race room, much less train one of his royally-bred nags.

In those days Frankel was known as "that foulmouthed street kid from Queens," a moniker that might get you a punch in the mouth if you called him that to his face.

Some 25 years later, a kinder, gentler Frankel at 52 will saddle five horses in the Breeders' Cup series including the three-horse entry of Marquetry, Missionary Ridge, and probable race favorite Bertrando in the classic.

Frankel will also saddle the filly Toussaud in the Breeders' Cup mile, and Luazur in the Breeders' Cup turf.

It's a long way from the Sicily Pallo of New York's Aqueduct Racetrack to the swaying palms of Santa Anita Park, but the kid from Queens has adjusted nicely.

"Sometimes it's hard to be-

lieve I've come this far," Frankel said while applying compresses to a small cut on Marquetry's upper lip. "Back in the early days it was hard to see past Aqueduct. I'm a lucky guy."

Frankel took out his trainer's license in New York back in 1965, and quickly established himself as a master of the claiming game with an uncanny ability to win with cheap players.

Still, his frank opinions about the problems in racing, and the people who ruled it, prevented him from getting high-quality horses. He moved his stable to Hollywood park in 1972, winning 55 races his first season, and set a record the following year with 60 wins out of 180 starts.

By the 1980s the quality of his horses had improved considerably.

In 1982, Frankel sent out Mehmet to beat the legendary John Henry twice in less than a month. After claiming the hapless Wickerr for \$50,000, Frankel turned around and won four stakes races with him in 1981-82.

Around the California tracks, Frankel became known as a "foot guru" — an expert on the care of a horse's hooves.

In 1991, Frankel was approached by Juddmonte's Prince Khalid Abdullah, a member of Saudi Arabia's royal family. After interviewing several prominent West Coast trainers — including Charlie Whittingham, D. Wayne Lukas, and Ron Mc-

nally, who edged Frankel for Trainer of the Year last year, — Prince Abdullah chose the foulmouthed street kid.

Frankel was sent one Juddmonte horse as a trial run. "We sent him our biggest problem horse," said John Chandler, who runs Juddmonte's Kentucky operation. "If Bobby could do something with Exbourne, then he was certainly worthy of our business."

In the 1991 Hollywood turf handicap, Exbourne charged from last place to devastate a field that included prized, Isallegrektome, and Missionary Ridge, another Frankel trainee.

Exbourne won two more stakes that year before breaking down in a workout at Santa Anita in the spring of 1992. After surgery and nearly a year recuperating at Frankel's barn, a seven-year-old Exbourne began his second career as a stallion in April.

Frankel seems content with life in laid back L.A., except for the nagging void that comes

from being winless in 16 Breeders' Cup races.

He came close in 1986 when his Theatrical lost to Manila by a neck in the turf, and again in 1991 when Val Des Bois lost by a length to Opening Verse in the mile.

Frankel was to have saddled two Juddmonte horses Saturday, Jolypha in the distaff and Toussaud in the mile. But Jolypha suffered a career-ending injury in a workout last Thursday.

His best chance for a Breeders' Cup breakthrough comes with the front-running speedster Bertrando in the classic.

Frankel insists he has become "much more diplomatic" in recent years. On Sunday morning, he sat in the grandstands with Bertrando's owner, Ed Nahem, and watched the colt sizzle six furlongs in 1:10.45 seconds.

Nahem turned to Frankel. "Looks good, don't he?"

Frankel wrinkled his nose. "Exbourne would killed him," he replied.

## Turkey to be punished for crowd trouble

GENEVA, Switzerland (Agencies) — Turkey are set to play their next under-21 home match in an empty stadium following incidents during a game last month.

A Polish player was hit by a coin during an under-21 international on Oct. 26.

The European Football Union, UEFA, ruled Wednesday that Turkey's game against Norway next Tuesday should be a lock-out for local fans.

The Turkish Football Federation have appealed and a final decision will be taken by the weekend.

Meanwhile, some 160 Manchester United soccer fans were arrested early Wednesday following a disturbance at a hotel in Istanbul where the team was due to play local club Galatasaray in a Champions Cup game.

About 30 of the fans escaped from police custody, while the rest were being brought to court to face possible charges.

and deportation, according to the British consulate.

Hotel staff said the fans wrecked 30 rooms, ransacked the hotel lobby and stole money from a safe.

According to an English policeman, who was monitoring the fans' behaviour in Istanbul, the Turkish police arrested everyone in sight after hearing reports of theft and damage to the hotel.

Ken Ramsden, Manchester United's assistant secretary, said he knew nothing of any violence or vandalism, merely an alleged theft of money.

A British consulate spokeswoman, who declined to be identified, denied Turkish press reports that anyone had been injured or hospitalised. "There were only one or two minor treatments," she said.

The consulate, she said, was in touch with the police and following the developments. It would give the fans legal support if needed, she added.

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# Tarawneh: Strong support for peace exists in Jordan

WASHINGTON (USA) — There is a solid base of support for the Middle East peace process in Jordan, Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Faye Tarawneh, said Tuesday.

Working out the practical details of the peace process in a timely fashion, however, is integral to sustaining that support, he said.

Dr. Tarawneh reviewed the status of the Middle East peace process and reflected on the region's future during a luncheon discussion sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. The discussion is part of the group's ongoing Ambassadors Forum lecture series.

Asked about support for the Middle East peace process in Jordan, the ambassador said Jordanians and Palestinians alike are looking towards the future. "Pragmatism is increasingly becoming more dominant than symbolism," he said.

While the voice of opposition tends to be louder, there is a "silent majority" of support for the peace process in Jordan, Dr. Tarawneh said. To underscore his point, the ambassador said that during a recent visit to Amman, he noticed the dominance of moderate political slogans leading up to the coming elections in Jordan, he said.

"I can say that what I saw in Amman just three days ago is very encouraging in terms of

accepting the new realities," the ambassador said.

Sustaining the support of this "silent majority" is key to the success of the peace process, he stressed.

"People are still in the period of wait and see, because what we have at hand is an agreement on certain principles. But there are a lot of details to be negotiated and agreed upon. ... It will all depend on the direction of these small practical details," he said.

Keeping to a time-table is also crucial to sustaining this support, the ambassador stressed. The declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestinians and the common agenda agreed upon between Jordan and the Israelis "have created very high expectations" in the region, he said.

"It is very important to meet the time targets. Otherwise we are pushing some of those who are in the silent majority towards opposition," he said. In this regard, he commended Israel and the Palestinians for quickly moving "towards putting the practical steps" of the accord into motion.

The ambassador said Jordan would like to see the United States "put more effort into realising certain movement" in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese negotiations. He said the United States should work to keep "the state of

balance in the peace process."

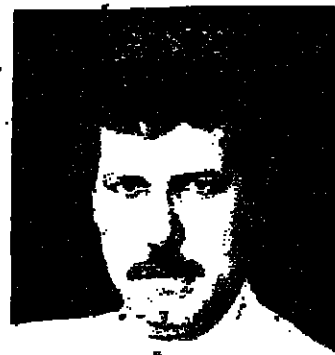
On the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, the ambassador said there should be coordination between the implementation of the common agenda and the declaration of principles. Underscoring this need, he noted that while the issue of refugees will be tackled during the final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, this issue is now on the common agenda with Jordan.

Reviewing the grave fiscal situation in Jordan created by the absorption of refugees and the after-effects of the Gulf war, the ambassador said, "We feel it is very crucial to address the structural, economic problems of Jordan."

To that end, he said the recent donors conference to provide financial assistance to the Palestinians should be the first phase in a more comprehensive attempt to address the economic ills of the region. Ensuring political stability and pursuing regional economic cooperation are the keys to addressing these problems, he said.

"We know in the area that we are losing a lot of opportunities," such as in trade, transportation and tourism, he said. "Still, to convince the world to come and invest in our area, we need stability."

The ambassador underscored his view on the importance of economic cooperation when asked about the possibil-



Faye Tarawneh

ity of a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan. Political confederation, he said, "is the least worry. What is more important is the economic arrangements that will prevail in the future."

Discussion on political confederation should wait until the final status negotiations determine the issues of borders, withdrawal and security, he said.

Asked about the Arab economic boycott of Israel, the ambassador said this issue will be addressed in the final status negotiations. This is an "issue that is taken very seriously and will be discussed in the legalistic and political discussions of the peace process," he said.

"We are in a process of discussing all the core roots of the conflict. It is important not to leave anything that might be a cause of instability in the future, including the Arab boycott," he said.

He added that Jordan is presently discussing with Israel the issue of Jordanian exports not being allowed into the West Bank.

## Israeli 'copters' attack S. Lebanon villages

NABATIYEH (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships blasted suspected guerrilla hideouts in South Lebanon Wednesday following a guerrilla attack in South Lebanon, security sources said.

No casualties were reported in the 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) raid on the village of Zawtar, five kilometres southeast of the market town of Nabatiyeh.

The sources said one of the two raiding Cobras fired two rockets, one of which hit the house of Mohammad Al Harb, penetrating three walls. The other rocket crashed in the back yard.

Mr. Harb, his wife and six children miraculously survived.

The sources said the helicopter strike came less than 40 minutes after unidentified guerrillas attacked an outpost manned by Israeli-allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The sources said the guerrillas fired dozens of mortar rounds and grenades on the edge of the western sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

SLA gunners struck back with a barrage of artillery fire around Zawtar and the Litani River, the sources said. They reported no casualties from the half-hour clash.

### 'Syria holding Arab'

An Israeli navigator widely believed held by Iran is actually in Syrian hands, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) top intelligence official was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Syria also is holding the bodies of three Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon since 1982, the official, Nizar Amar, a negotiator in the Israel-PLO talks on Palestinian autonomy, said.

The Israeli servicemen became an issue in the talks after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week linked the release of Palestinian prisoners by Israel to information about the missing.

Rabin spokesman Gad Ben Ari on Wednesday refused comment on Mr. Amar's statements which, if true, could further complicate the delicate peace negotiations with Syria. Syria has said it knows nothing about the whereabouts of the navigator, Ron Arab, and the three missing soldiers — Zakariya Baumeil, Yehuda Katz and Zui Feldman.

## Three convicted hanged in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Three Islamic militants were hanged here Wednesday for murder and armed robbery, raising to 18 the number of militants executed in Egypt in less than six months.

The three were sentenced to death by a military court on Aug. 12, along with a fourth militant of the underground group Al Shawqiyyin dissidents who has evaded capture.

They were convicted of the murder of four people and attempting to kill nine others in 1992, in a series of armed robberies of jewellery shops owned by Coptic Christians in Cairo and Faiyum, 100 kilometres to the south.

The robberies were carried out to finance "terrorist operations," according to police.

The militants were also accused of setting up an organisation with the goal of toppling the government.

Thirty-eight Islamic militants have been sentenced to death since December 1992, and 18 militants have now been hanged since May, all but one of them sentenced by military courts.

On Saturday, a military court in Cairo passed a death sentence against eight militants of the Islamic group Taleh Al Farah (Vanguards of conquest) for plotting to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

The president transferred trials of suspected militants to

military courts last December, in a bid to stop a wave of violence that has killed 225 people since the militants declared war on the authorities in March 1992.

The death toll includes 68 policemen and 77 militants. Six foreigners have also been killed, crippling Egypt's vital tourism industry.

The military trials have been strongly criticised by human rights groups, including Amnesty International which charged that torture was used to extract confessions.

The U.S. organisation Middle East Watch complained on Oct. 21 that the verdicts of the military courts were not subject to appeal, as is required in international law for civilian defendants.

Ramadan Mustapha Hassan, 28, Ali Fayed, 27, and Sayed Abdel Razeq Badri, 20, were hanged one after another beginning at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) and ending after 9 a.m., military prosecutors said.

President Mubarak has shown no mercy to militants who have attacked public figures, police and tourists in a campaign to overthrow him and install a purist Islamic state.

A military court condemned the three to death on Aug. 21 for attempted murder, gold robbery and conspiring to topple the Egyptian state. A fourth man, still at large, was sentenced to death in absentia.

## Iraqi policeman killed in Kuwait border clash

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — An Iraqi policeman was shot and fatally wounded and another injured in a skirmish with civilians on the Kuwaiti side of the border, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

It was the first deadly border incident between Iraqis and Kuwaitis since the 1991 Gulf war, although there have been several violations of the disputed frontier.

Abdul Latif Kabbaj of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said three policemen infiltrated northern Kuwait just west of Umm Qasr port on Tuesday.

The third Iraqi evacuated his injured colleagues toward the southern Iraqi city of Basra after an exchange of fire with the Kuwaiti civilians, he said.

Mr. Kabbaj said unnamed U.N. observers intervened but the police fired warning in the air and the six Kuwaitis shot back, hitting one Iraqi in the arm and seriously wounding another in the chest.

The second policeman later died in a Basra hospital, he said, quoting Iraqi authorities.

The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry first reported the incident late Tuesday charging that the Iraqis tried to abduct a group of workers digging a trench along the border under the U.N. supervision.

The United Nations has set a new land border after Iraqi troops were driven out of

Kuwait in February 1991, giving the emirate an extra strip of land some 600 metres wide along the frontier.

On the political front, Kuwait on Wednesday rejected an Iraqi proposal to set up an Arab committee to investigate the fate of Kuwaitis reported missing since the Iraqi invasion in August 1990.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad Al Jasssem told AFP: "Kuwait rejects all Iraqi proposals on prisoners that are not founded on international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Iraq was trying to "get round" the U.N. economic embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait, Mr. Jasssem said.

Baghdad said Tuesday it had asked Qatar and Morocco to set up a committee to "investigate directly" the question of missing persons, "in order to close the file on the so-called prisoners."

Kuwait has accused Iraq of holding more than 600 Kuwaiti prisoners, a charge denied by Baghdad.

Iraq has arrested scores of Kuwaitis and foreign workers at the disputed border and imprisoned them for illegal entry.

Iraq has recently released three Swedes and one Filipino. Three Germans, two Britons, an American and a Frenchman remain jailed.

## Accord to end Kashmir stand-off breaks down

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — An agreement to end the Indian army siege of the Hazratbal mosque, where Kashmiri Muslim militants have been holed up for 19 days, collapsed Wednesday, the chief government negotiator said.

"I am deeply disappointed. I was hopeful that everything would be over today but unfortunately something, somewhere went wrong," said Wajahat Habibullah, a top Kashmir administration official who has headed the talks with the rebels.

Mr. Habibullah told AFP that he held four rounds of talks on Wednesday with the representatives of the 50 armed Kashmiri separatists holed up in the Hazratbal mosque on the banks of Srinagar's Dal Lake.

He declined to reveal what derailed the peaceful settlement to the standoff.

The 50 Kashmiri separatists and 60 to 70 civilians have been trapped inside the white marble mosque since it was surrounded by thousands of troops on the night of Oct. 15 during a sweep against insurgents.

A senior government official, Mahmood Ur Rahman, had said earlier Wednesday that an agreement had been reached during talks overnight and the militants would leave the complex during the day.

He said the Muslim militants would be separated from civilians after an identification parade.

"The law will take its

course," and those rebels who do not already face charges of serious crimes are expected to be let off on bail as part of the agreement, Mr. Rahman said.

"We are in a hurry to see the episode end so that everybody in Kashmir and throughout India can have a sigh of relief," he said.

There was hectic activity around the shrine amid expectations the drama was drawing to a close.

Teams from the paramilitary Border Security Force accompanied by masked informants were sent to the mosque to help with the identification of the persons leaving the shrine.

Muslim clerics were brought to the mosque to inspect a holy relic — a hair believed to come from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad — to ensure it was unharmed. They were sent home after nightfall.

The militants inside the complex could be heard meanwhile chanting verses from the Koran over loud hailer perched on a mosque minaret.

The rebels have ruled out a surrender, demanding the army lift the siege, allow them safe passage and insisting they would hand over the shrine and the relic to the clergy and prominent Kashmiri citizens.

Troops were out in strength meanwhile enforcing a strict curfew clamped for "operational reasons" over much of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The siege of Hazratbal has caused widespread unrest in Kashmir.

## Yeltsin moves to shelter homeless

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin ordered measures Wednesday to provide shelter and social benefits to Russia's homeless and said beggars should be taken off the streets.

In a decree published by ITAR-TASS, Mr. Yeltsin ordered police forces to detain for up to 10 days all "vagrant and beggars" who are to undergo a medical examination and be directed to employment and welfare authorities.

The Russian leader also told the government to set up a network of "social rehabilitation centres" tasked with helping the homeless find employment and obtain social benefits.

The number of homeless people has risen drastically in the past two years, in particular among the working poor, the elderly and the sick who have been hardest hit by free-market reforms. Under the former Communist regime, Soviet citizens were guaranteed the right to housing even if that guarantee was fulfilled through "overcrowded" communal apartments. Hundreds of homeless people in Moscow converge on the city's train stations for shelter at night while poverty-stricken Russians have been forced to stand outside subway stations, cap in hand, to make ends meet.

Diana, Camilla Parker Bowles at same service

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana, separated wife of Prince Charles, and Camilla Parker Bowles, said by British tabloids to have been his lover, shared headlines Wednesday after both attended the same church service for a dead earl. "The wife and the mistress," the London tabloid Today headlined its report. "Diana, walked past her stoney face — Camilla looked to the ground." The two women both attended the memorial service Tuesday for the late Earl of Westmorland in the swank Guard Chapel behind Buckingham Palace. The earl, number three in the royal household with the title Master of the Horse, The British national news agency Press Association said the two women are not known to have been under the same roof for more than a year. They did not speak. Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip greeted the princess warmly outside the chapel as Princess Diana arrived about 15 minutes after Mrs. Parker Bowles, who attended the service with her parents and husband. Princess Diana responded to the queen's greeting with a broad smile. Prince Charles, the queen's 44-year-old son and heir, missed the service.

## Magazine apologises to Japan empress

TOKYO (AP) — A magazine under fire for publishing a series of articles critical of Empress Michiko has apologized to the palace, official said Wednesday. According to the palace, the Shukan Bunshun, Japan's most widely read weekly, has also promised to publish a formal apology in its next issue, which goes on sale Thursday. "The magazine has informed us that they have earnestly taken our position into account and will apologise for expressions that might have invited misunderstanding," the palace said in a statement.

Bunshun officials could not be reached for comment because of a national holiday. Empress Michiko, who over the past three months has been the target of unprecedentedly harsh media criticism, suffered an apparent nervous breakdown on her 59th birthday two weeks ago. She remains unable to speak but is otherwise healthy.

Man cleared of biting police dog

SAN DIEGO, California (AFP) — A diver was acquitted here of biting a police dog that brought him down after a chase. Bronson Johns, 46, was found innocent of assaulting the 9-year-old San Diego police dog, an Alsatian. Mr. Johns said all he was doing was opening his mouth in pain and struggling to get the dog off him. The dog, known as Officer Faustus, certainly got the better of Johns, who is suing San Diego for \$32,000 for his broken wrist and bites.

## Tribal cohesion fractured in elections

By Mariam M. Shabin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When the one-person, one-vote formula was introduced into Jordan's electoral process in August, political analysts began to predict that tribal affiliations would largely determine the outcome of the Nov. 8 elections. But only several days before polling day, an increasing number of observers feel that the new law has fragmented more families than it united on the campaign trail.

The new electoral formula has not only weakened political parties by preventing the kind of alliances that would have been available to them as an option under the old bloc-voting system, these observers say. The tribes and smaller families have suffered as a result.

"In every clan or tribe, or even family, you have at least four political persuasions, a leftist or pan-Arabist, an Islamist, a right-wing and a natural independent," a member of the large Al Adwan tribe says.

"As a result of these inner tribal affiliations, votes are likely to be split not once but twice at least. It is thus not uncommon for a leftist member of the family to vote for someone other than his cousin, who is running for the election but who nevertheless does not share this ideological or political point of view."

When the 1986 Election Law came under review by the first government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in 1989, the concept of the one-person, one-vote formula was rejected as a possible amendment because it could generate tribal squabbles and splinter the traditional Jordanian

concept of community leadership.

But "the new voting formula has made it possible for both parties and tribes to be split over the candidacy of one politician or tribal representative," according to Yassin Tarawneh, a pan-Arab candidate in Karak.

"Those who pushed for the new law did not want community representation in Parliament but a grouping of individuals who speak with 80 different voices," he says.

But not everyone agrees with Mr. Tarawneh's analysis.

"The campaigns are community oriented but not necessarily tribal," says Mustapha Hamarneh, Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

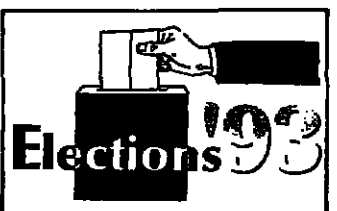
The on-going elections are "parochial" in that they do not concern themselves with national issues, preferring to concentrate on insular local and regional issues, he says.

"The issues and campaigns may be truly provincial, but to say there is consensus on certain candidates on a tribal basis is an exaggeration."

A son of a candidate from Ramtha agrees. "You will have a split tribal vote even in the most cohesive regions," he says.

No less than 18 candidates are vying for the three Muslim seats allocated to the Ramtha and Beni Kenanah district.

A few clans, such as the Obeidats in Bani Kenana, the Batainehs in Irbid and the Majalis in Karak, held tribal primaries and thus decided who their tribal candidates



would be. In almost every case, at least one other member of the clan fielded himself as an independent.

With voting members of the Obeidat clan being estimated at 10,000 and the Majalis at 6,500, even relatively minor splits could create a threat to the tribal candidates, some observers believe.

Qaseem Obeidat, who was his clan's successful candidate during the 1989 elections, is now challenging his official tribes' candidate, after the former deputy failed to win his family's primaries this time. While Bani Kenanah observers expect him to take about one-fifth of the Obeidat votes, they do not believe that he would seriously put the election of the official Obeidat candidate into jeopardy.

However, not all clans can count on such outcomes due to the sheer number of their voters.

Three members of the Malkawi clan are running for a seat also in the Ramtha and Bani Kenanah district, and local observers believe their votes will be so split that none of them will win. In the Koura and Northern Bedouin districts, three members of the Shreideh clan, two brothers and their uncle are competing, leaving family voters angry and threatening to boycott the elections altogether.

"Many members of the Shreidehs are angry because the issue of three candidates

so closely related will force them to take sides they don't want to take — so many are likely to abstain," a member of the Shreideh clan who lives in Amman says.

In Irbid, on the other hand, former Minister of Health Aref Bataineh and former Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat are said to have good chances of success because there is "clan consensus" on their candidacy.

In the Balqa district seven members of the large Abbadi clan are contesting the same seat, although they belong to different political persuasions. Nael Masalha Zeidan (Abbadi) is one of four members of the Islamic Action Front running for one of six seats allocated for Muslims.

Meanwhile his relative, Mustapha Shreikat (Abbadi), is running as a candidate for the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, an offshoot of the Jordanian Communist Party in the same governorate.

This will no doubt split their tribe's vote and weaken all the candidate's chances.

Local observers in almost all districts believe that many political parties including the IAF and the leftist parties looked for the strength of a candidate's tribal backing before choosing him (or her) as their candidate. In almost all districts except the most central Amman districts, where a heavy urban presence brings regional and political factors into play, this does appear to be the case.

It is widely believed that the IAF fielded two official candidates from the Majali clan in Karak to weaken the hopes of both head of the right-of-centre Al Ahd Party

Abdul Hadi Majali and his independent cousin Bahjat Majali.

"The Majali votes won't be cohesive, but the majority will go to Abdul Hadi despite the IAF's attempt to badly split the Majali votes," says an independent observer of the Karak elections.

In the governorate, there are many people who are saying the tribal character of the region will dominate the election, but many others are betting that the lack of tribal cohesiveness will result in the failure of many major clans to vote in any of their members.

The issues being raised at local rallies in Karak concern provincial rather than national issues, among with voters scrambled among over 60 candidates running for nine seats, the number of votes' single candidate is likely to get are expected to be around 5,000 compared to over 12,000 during the 1989 elections.

"What this means," says parliamentary hopeful Tarawneh (one of seven other Tarawnehs running), "is that you will have individuals who represent a very limited number of people with very parochial interests dominating (the next) Parliament."

"Despite all talks to the contrary, the winners of this election will not be party leaders nor tribal chieftains," Mr. Tarawneh maintains.

The victors will be those with the most regional appeal," he says. "Consequently you will have a Parliament which will focus almost exclusively on local rather than national and foreign affairs — it might well be the most convenient time to make peace with Israel."

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا من اجله"